khallaas

an A to Z guide to the underworld

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a glimpse into the world of dons, gangsters and cops

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To quote an old cliche, Mumbai spawns a dream a minute. On the surface and off it. In the twisted lanes and mohallas of Pydhonie and Dongri, those dreams have a language and character of their own. Dark, ruthless and wildly exciting.

No one raises so much as an eyebrow here when the son of a police constable becomes a 'bhai', or a small-time chaiwala starts calling the shots in his neighbourhood. There's one thread that runs through their life stories: the power and ambition to be Big Daddy. The Godfather.

Stories from badland have made it to the movies, and fired the imagination of a nation. From Karim Lala and Haji Mastan to Maya Dolas and Dawood Ibrahim, almost every¬one holds in awe the meteoric rise in infamy and fortune of its protagonists.

As a journalist on the crime beat, I have had a long association with the keepers of the law and those living on the underbelly. I have spent long hours talking to those in uniform, those in the underworld and those in the grey zone — people who work as police informers.

Much of what I saw, heard and observed in over a decade of covering crime in Mumbai has found its way into print. But there was a lot that remained unsaid for various reasons. Often, friends would be in raptures when I'd narrate to them barely a snippet or two of stories that were never heard before.

This may sound like a contradiction, but the underworld is inhabited by people much like us, except that they live more on the edge. It's a world that's even codified its own language — many that spring up on the spur of the

moment. Thus, there are unique derivatives used by the underworld to describe the cops, rivals, extortion, rewards and even the big bosses, most of them aimed at sending the police or an adversary on a wild goose chase.

It's a world that also thrives on the spirit of enterprise. The rules of 'dhanda' apply equally here — risk, profit and competition are at the very core. An informer will think nothing of selling precious information that he has about a rival to the police if it can earn him a few good bucks or goodwill. The rules here are straight and the ethics sacrosanct. Entrepreneurship and new ways to beat the system are the skills that are honed to perfection over the years.

The underworld also actively courts danger and death. In many ways, it has conquered the fear that many of us mere mortals face — during the course of writing this book, four of my sources in the underworld have died — some to police bullets, others to inter-gang rivalry.

In the pages ahead, I share with you some of the stories that take you through this universe — vibrant, dynamic and yes, dangerous.

These stories and terms have accumulated over the years by my interaction with hundreds of people who have been on the fringes of the underworld.

D Sivanandhan, who was then the Joint Director Central Bureau of Investigation, provided me with vital statistics. He had faith in me and spent several hours educating me on the underworld.

I am grateful to Unni Rajen Shankar, Resident Editor of The Indian Express in Mumbai, who inspired me to write a column 'Notes From the Underworld' for nearly three years in the newspaper.

My present empoyer MiD DAY was patient with me and allowed me to focus on the task of completing the book.

I owe a debt to Mini Pant Zachariah, Sweta Ramanujam Dixit, Nikil Dixit, Mohan Bhanushali, Satish Purohit and my wife Shubha. Without them, the book would never be completed. My mother and sister too religiously filed heaps of texts scattered all over the room.

The late Mrs. Correia was kind enough to allow her dingy residence at Bandra to be used as a meeting place for some denizens of the underworld. I had converted the office of the slain Amjad Khan as a meeting place for policemen. Zishan, Yogesh and Dilipbhai went out of their way to help me in maintaining records.

Young publisher Akash Shah and Chief Editor Rayasam Sharma were initially skeptical dealing with the underworld subject and didn't want gangsters calling at their office. But they decided to go with it.

Officers like Dr Satya Pal Singh, Rakesh Maria, Param Bir Singh, and Pradip Sawant have inspired me to complete the book.

Anda Ka Funda

Anda cell, the heavily guarded section in Mumbai's Arthur Road jail, which is home to some of the country's most dreaded gangsters, psychopaths and economic offenders, has hundreds of stories to tell.

The sombre walls of the cell held gangland greats such as Abu Salem, Dawood Ibrahim's brother Iqbal, Chhota Rajan's henchman D K Rao, Vicky Malhotra amd Farid Tanashah. Hundreds of sinister plots have been hatched within the four walls of the cell and executed by hirelings on the streets of Mumbai.

The dark cell is just nine bare rooms in an egg-shaped barrack, which is where it gets its name—*Anda*. Originally built in 1926, as a solitary confinement area, each cell is now shared by two prisoners. Every cell has a table fan and a bed. High-profile gangsters even avail of facilities such as mobile phones and expensive music systems. Guards man the inner and outer fences in the maximum-security area.

Andar Sabun Mat Lagana

How Soap Killed OP

Chhota Rajan's former associate, Om Prakash Singh alias OP alias Wilson, what committed gangsters consider a fatal sin—he allowed his two associates to apply soap on his face.

It was November 24, 2002. OP was enjoying a Sunday afternoon bath in the Nasik jail. Two associates applied soap and washed him up.

Soon enough some men pinned OP to the floor in the washroom area where one tightened the noose until he died.

All it takes to kill an associate inside a jail is a few hundred rupees.

Jail officials tried to attribute the death to a heart attack. They tried to cover up the smuggling of nylon rope, cricket gear and some weapons inside the Nasik jail.

Abdul Kayum Karim Sheikh

Key member of the Dawood Ibrahim gang who was deported from Dubai to India in late 2006.

According to records available with the Central Bureau of Investigation, Sheikh was the one who delivered the 9 mm caliber pistol that was found in Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt's possession in 1993. The gun was actually delivered to the star by gangster Abu Salem, who is also a 1993 bomb blast accused.

Sheikh was believed to be handling the D-Company's activities during his stint in Dubai. He is also known to having connections with several Bollywood starlets during their sojourn to the desert capital for shows.

Accident/Admit (Chased & Arrested By Cops)

When a gangster is about to be arrested he warns his associates by saying '*accident ho gaya* (I have had an accident). If he is arrested, he would say '*admit ho gaya'* (I have been admitted).

These coded messages are enough to warn his associates that the cops will be

on their trail soon. The signal often means that the yet-not arrested associates discard their mobile phones and shift to another hideout to avoid a similar 'accident' or 'admission'.

Aftab Ansari (Farhan Bhai)

Aftab Ansari was growing to be a threat to underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

Like Dawood, Kolkata-based Ansari alias Farhan Bhai, spread his empire from Mumbai to Kathmandu and even to Dubai, in a short spell of three years. His associates were trained in guerrilla warfare in war-torn Afghanistan with groups like the Lashkar-e-Toiba.

Ansari, like his mentor Babloo Srivastava, specialised in kidnapping. The abduction of two city-based stock brokers, Niranjan Shah and Khadim Group owner Partho Roy Burman in Kolkata, were some of his 'successful assignments'. His dramatic growth was nipped early enough, with his arrest in Dubai in 2003. He was deported to India the same year.

Ali Budesh (NRI Gangster)

From street ruffian to don, the rise of Bahrain-based gangster Ali Budesh was meteoric.

Born of an Indian mother and Arab father, Budesh was a familiar figure near Pankeshah Baba Dargah in Ghatkopar, in the late seventies, where he lived during his sojourns to the country. Ali, as he was known then, was often seen riding a vintage Norton motorcycle to carom clubs at Vikhroli Park Site. He would regularly sponsor soft drinks for all the players there. Locals believed he was a customs officer from Bahrain, on vacation. But his lavish lifestyle soon made him popular among ruffians and pickpockets in the area between 1978 and 1980. It was during these trips that Budesh developed contacts with local goons, many of whom were affiliated to the newly-formed Dawood Ibrahim gang.

Budesh soon made the transition to big stakes, and dabbled in extortion like his mentor Dawood Ibrahim. Known names in the business, Subhash Singh Thakur and Shyamkishore Garigapatti, were his close associates.

Budesh's gang suffered a major setback after his key lieutenant Rafiq Dabbawalla was killed in an encounter. His Arab connections helped him seek safe haven in Bahrain.

Amirzada (Amirzada Nawab Khan)

Started as a pickpocket in the red-light areas of Mumbai before he joined hands with Sayeed Batla. The gang was further strengthened when others like Pathan Alamzeb, Janzrez Khan and Jaffar Jamal Siddique also teamed up against Dawood's gang, often referred as Konkani. The Paktuni Pathans held sway over Nagpada and the adjoining areas before crossing swords with Dawood. Amirzada was the main shooter in the murder of Dawood's elder brother Shabir.

Ancient Drug Route

Kingpin Nari Khan was the first to actively seek underworld support to open up new drug trafficking routes to Mumbai.

Pakistan-born Noor Mohammed Pathan alias Nari Khan, had a fairly medium-scale operation with veterans in the field such as Karim Lala, Iqbal Mirchi, Mini Mastan, Lal Khan, Mubarak Khan and Majid, who were all struggling for a share of the pie. The drug market was flooded with heroin and brown sugar from across the border. The most popular brands were 777, 999 and *Bichchu* (Scorpion).

Shortly, Khan hit the markets with his famous 555 brand of brown sugar. It was a massive hit and the Pathan's fortunes soared. During a smuggling operation in 1990, Khan was arrested by the anti-narotic sleuths and sent to Arthur Road jail. His time behind bars proved to be a lucky break as he came in touch with some members of the Amar Naik gang.

Khan's association with gang leader Amar Naik alias Ravan, gave him the much needed muscle power to neutralise threats from rival traffickers, many of whom were affiliated to one of the many underworld outfits in the city. The new-found friendship saw Khan's business expand in the city. He and Amar Naik exploited their contacts in Sri Lanka and Canada to open up routes to Mumbai. By the mid-1990s, Khan even had an office in up-market Colaba with A. Patel as chief-of-operations. Abu Hamza and Hajji Pappu supervised business in the north-western suburbs of Mumbai.

Khan, meanwhile, spent most of his time in luxury hotels in south Mumbai with his pocket full of dry fruits. He was gunned down in an encounter near Vikhroli on August 11, 1996. Just a day later, his associate Amar Maruti Naik was killed in another encounter.

Amar Naik

The key To Two Glock Pistols

It was late 1995. Crime Branch officials had picked up a suspect for questioning and during interrogation, recovered a key from the suspect who was now a police informant.

The suspect broke down and confessed that the key belonged to dreaded gangster Amar Naik, who owned an apartment at Bangur Nagar in Goregaon. He was a mere caretaker, recalled Rakesh Maria, then Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime).

The suspect told investigators that the only other key to the house was with Naik. Besides the two men, nobody knew about the secret apartment, which Naik visited once a week. Naik had last visited the flat three days ago.

It was 11.15 pm. Maria did not waste time. He deputed two police officers to secretly enter the apartment and wait for Naik. By 1.15 am the two officers were in the apartment. They had taken along some provisons as they expected to spend a few days there.

At 7.30 am, Maria received a telephone call informing him that Naik had escaped.

Naik had walked into the flat and was taken aback when he found a stranger in his flat, as was the police officer, who had not expected Naik to show up so soon. Both froze for a moment. Naik desperately tried to thrust his right hand into a cotton sling bag slung on his right shoulder. The officer, in his lungi, was trying desperately to prevent him from doing so. The gangster suddenly let go of the bag and darted down the flight of stairs. The police officer was at a disavantage because of his lungi. The bag contained two sophisticated Glock pistols, three passports and some bank pass books.

Investigators were surprised when they discovered that Naik had traveled to the US, Canada, Netherlands, Australia and South Africa. His bank accounts with deposits of more than Rs five lakh were also frozen.

Just eight months later, on August 10, 1996, before he could flee abroad, Naik was killed in an encounter.

Anar (Grenade)

Anar or pomegranate means bomb in the underworld. They look alike, but are rarely used in Mumbai. *"Anar phod dunga"* (I will lob a grenade), yelled gangster Ashok Joshi, after he was tricked and arrested by Kanjurmarg police in 1988.

Anil Parab (Robin)

Parab's transition from a autorickshaw driver to a top-ranking shooter was phenomenal. Between 1984 and 1987, Parab was involved in four shootouts, transforming the sleepy Kanjur village into a killing field. He not only became Ashok Joshi's trusted lieutenant but found himself in the company of a dreaded group of contract killers which included Sada Pawle, Keshav Utchil, Vinay Karanjekar, Pandurang Madvi, Yogesh Paradkar and Kiran

Walawalkar.

But this gangland friendship was over in 1987 when Parab was assaulted by Ashok Joshi for sexual harassment. Though his gang members were present at the time of assault, nobody came to his aid. The humiliation of being let down by gang members drove Parab into the arms of Chhota Rajan, then a key lieutenant of Dawood. Not only did Parab switch sides, but he also hit back by joining a team of shooters involved in the murder of Ashok Joshi at Kaloke village near Panvel on December 4, 1988. He was left with little choice but to escape to Dubai after the shootout.

When Rajan broke away from Dawood in 1993, Parab abandoned Rajan. In 1995, Parab was accused of masterminding the murder of his wife Neha, when she returned from Dubai in 1995. Parab suspected his wife was having an extramarital affair with Dawood Ibrahim.

Parab soon outlived his utility in the D-Company and was deported to India on April 21, 2003. He is serving life term for opening fire at a businessman Hansraj Shah, at the behest of Joshi, on June 6, 1984.

Anna (Sharad Shetty)

Sharad Rajanna Shetty was D-company's financial advisor and the underworld's key link to international cricket betting syndicates. Anna was one of the few D-Company men who could talk to Dawood as a friend or call him by his name.

Shetty alias Anna, as he was known among hoteliers in Mumbai and Mangalore, was the key person responsible for advising mafia don Dawood Ibrahim on cricket betting.

Over the years, the Dawood-Shetty partnership had resulted in the death of many people. Shetty was involved in the conspiracy that led to an attack on rival don Chhota Rajan in Bangkok on September 16, 2000.

After an enmity over running the hotel business in 1986, Shetty, along with

Jayanta Shetty and Arvind Dholakia hired a small-time goon Vijay Kanjari, to kill former don Babu Reshim in a police lockup at central Mumbai. Shetty is also believed to have been involved in the murders of the Bhatti brothers in Pakistan, who were killed to enable Dawood to draw in his share of underworld income.

Apart from these cases, police records indicate that Shetty was named in at least three other murders. Prominent among these is the murder of hotelier Ramnath Payarde at Kandivili in 1997. Some of his other targets include one Laxman and the jeweller Prabhakar Achraya, from the Western suburbs. Shetty also owned a shopping center in Jogeshwari and a hotel in Dubai. He was gunned by rival gangster Chhota Rajan's henchmen in Dubai, on January 19, 2002.

Anwar Yusuf Sheikh (Mamaji/Annu/Badshah)

He was initiated into crime by his brother-in-law Mohammed Ali Kanjari alias Vikram Parmar, a trusted lieutenant of mafia leader Chhota Shakeel in 1996.

The elusive gangster soon found himself in league with some top hitmen like Nilesh Kokam and Chand Mastan alias Kanjari. When Chhota Shakeel wanted to unleash terror among politicians in the city, the dreaded gangster was the immediate choice. Badshah was killed in an encounter by a squad led by Praful Bhosle on July 16, 2000.

Artist (Shooter)

Abandon the thoughts of paints and brush. An artist in the underworld, wields a firearm to complete a job and can command a price for his skill as Feroz Konkani did. Konkani, the highest paid artist, commanded Rs 50,000 for a job when ordinary shooters were paid just around Rs 5,000 for an assignment.

Apart from the phenomenal price he commanded for a contract killing, Feroz

Konkani was also given a car and flat near Versova, in Andheri. His rise in the crime world was as mysterious as his disappearance in 1998. It is believed that he was killed at the behest of his former mentor, Chhota Shakeel. From a local hoodlum, he graduated to being named in over 18 murders in the mid-1990s, making him one of the highest paid artists in the Chhota Shakeel gang. He is also named in 30 cases of robberies, stabbings and firings across the city.

Konkani, third in the family of three brothers and a sister, dropped out of the Municipal School, near Shaikh Mistry Dargah in Wadala, while studying in Standard IX in 1988. After dropping out of school he lived modestly, working as an errand boy on the streets of Dongri. This 16-year-old from Sheikh Mistry Road in Wadala, was elevated to the status of Ferozdada almost overnight after he stabbed a bootlegger on Nishantpada Road in Dongri. This daredevilry did not go unnoticed. Realising his potential, gangster Chhota Shakeel wasted no time in recruiting Feroz to his gang. He soon killed Sunny Manan, a police informant. This was followed with the murder of a *mathadi* worker in Dongri during the 1993 riots. But his biggest strike was when he felled Bhartiya Janata Party's Member of Legislative Assembly, Ramdas Nayak at Bandra, in 1994. Suddenly, he was a name to be reckoned with in the echelons of Mumbai's underworld. He escaped from J J Hospital on May 6, 1998.

Arvind Dholakia's Murder

The Dholakia brothers' owned Caesar's Palace Hotel at Khar. The decor was breathtaking and could have been a set designer's dream. It was a safe haven for candid conversations with prostitutes or dancing with them, in the semi-dark hall to pulsating music without the wife knowing—all this while bouncers kept watch for anything suspicious.

The boss, Mahesh Dholakia, himself often moved around with gun-toting henchmen. But his younger brother Arvind was gunned down in true underworld dramatic style two months after the death of his brother Mahesh. The highly professional killing was executed around 8 pm., even as the sleaze business was at its peak at Caesar's Palace.

Two gunmen alighted from a Maruti car and met Dholakia at the counter. After chatting with the duo, the kingpin accompanied the hit men into his cabin, leaving the bodyguards behind.

Within minutes, gunshots reverberated from the cabin, sending customers at the bar and couples in the adjoining rooms scurrying. The bodyguards rushed to the spot, but the assailants were gone and Arvind Dholakia was dead. The date was December 1, 1987.

Dholakia had announced that he would eliminate all those involved in the murder of his brother Mahesh, while lighting the funeral pyre at Chandanwadi crematorium. The other theory was that he had grabbed a bar belonging to one Rama Shetty at Bandra after foisting a case against him. As a result, the bar-owner was on the streets and had vowed to avenge the insult.

Asharfibi (The Final Gamble)

Slain Pathan gang lieutenant Mehmood Kalia's beautiful widow Asharfibi (also known as Sapna didi), had lost hopes of getting back at Dawood when Arun Gawli's younger brother Kishore Gawli alias Papa was killed by members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang on February 22, 1990.

She was convinced of Dawood's hand in her husband's killing. The plot with Papa had gone horribly wrong. Ashrafibi's resolve to avenge her husband's death was further strengthened when she met Sheikh Mohammed Hussein alias Ustara (Hindi for razor).

Hussein was a natural ally as he too had crossed swords with Dawood in 1995.

Hussein spent the next six months training Ashrafibi in the cellar of his secret hideout, at Pydhonie. The beauty could soon use any weapon—from a Mauser to an AK 47 assault rifle—a fact which the gangster himself had later confirmed.

Ashrafibi plotted to take Dawood by surprise during a one- day international

cricket match at Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates. Hussein, using his overseas contacts, confirmed that Dawood and his unarmed associates were regular spectators at cricket fixtures in the desert city. It would be easy to stab the don when he and his associates were immersed in the game.

The strongly built Ashrafibi volunteered to carry out the task. A prototype of the Sharjah stadium was built in Hussein's hideout. Hussein and his men chalked out minute details on how to take Dawood by surprise. But Dawood soon got to know of the plan. Chhota Shakeel was asked to ensure Ashrafibi was dead.

Ashok Joshi

Ashok Joshi's story begins with the death of central Mumbai don Rama Naik, following which, Dawood Ibrahim began to see Joshi as his new *bete noir*.

The tall, lean gangster had sworn to eliminate members of Temkar Mohalla's 'Young Company' and first drew blood with the daylight murder of Dawood aide Satish Raje.

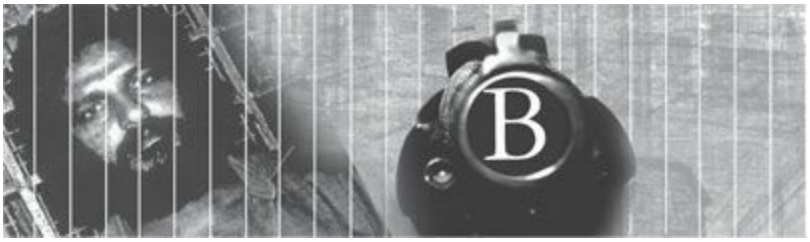
Soon, Joshi transformed the quaint Kanjur Village into a major killing ground, which boasted of more than 20 murders in less than two year. Legend goes that in the 1980s, more teenagers were joining the underworld than colleges, in the former East Indian settlement. Such was his sway, that within two years, Joshi had an army of youth willing to sacrifice their lives for him, including Keshav Uchil alias Anna, Yogesh Paradkar, Anil Parab alias Robin, Vinay Karanjikar, Kiran Walavalkar, Pandurang Madvi and Sudhir Surve.

Why Joshi became the big daddy of Kanjur Marg's criminals is not difficult to fathom. He shared his booty and lived a very simple life. As Joshi's power deepened, the warrens in the fishing village of Kanjur morphed into the northern extension of central Mumbai's Dagdi Chawls. Death warrants were signed at will and killings were common. Dawood's men, almost two-dozen of them with as many guns, cornered Joshi in a Maruti van at Kaloke village, on the old Mumbai—Pune highway near Panvel, on December 4, 1988. His bullet-riddled body along with that of four of his associates was later found

on the highway.

Atthais (28)

Atthais is an abbreviation for alcoholics in the underworld. It is also associated with liquor. This word, used mostly in Dongri and Bhendi Bazaar areas of south Mumbai, originated in the late 1950s, during a game of words called *China Peti.*



Babloo Shrivastava (A Failure In Mumbai)

Om Prakash Shrivastava alias Babloo could not really make it big in Mumbai's underworld. The unique topography of the city was far too confusing for him and his gang.

He masterminded the kidnapping of businessman Dilip Jain, from Gamdevi in south Mumbai, in 1992. The victim was whisked to a hideout near suburban Juhu before he was released in Chembur.

Shrivastava had planned the operation with key associates Sanjay Khanna and Vikram Tiwari, who was soon killed in an encounter in central Mumbai. His final attempts to make inroads into Mumbai's underworld failed when his lieutenants Shahid and Dinesh were gunned down on August 18, 1997.

The gang comprising of Vikram Vahi, Man Mohan Seghal and Swetha struck again when it tried kidnapping businessman Vishwanath Mittal near the Air India building in Nariman Point on June 21, 1994. The mission failed again because the gang's contacts in Mumbai, Amit Katiyar and Ashok Tiwari had goofed up. The police tracked the gangsters to a nearby hotel within hours.

Baba Reddy

Chhota Rajan and the Nana Company first saw potential in Venkatesh Bugga Reddy alias Baba Reddy alias Mohammed Bhai, after he was arrested in 1997.

Arrangements were made to ensure that Reddy escaped from the country and joined hands with Rajan's lieutenant, Santosh Shetty.

Reddy—a look alike of boxing champion Mike Tyson, with a 46-inch chest and 36-inch waist—soon found himself in the 'Clinton' or counterfeit dollar business living on a picturesque island off Malaysia and began making calls to old targets in Mumbai.

Rajan alias Seth was furious when his associates in Mumbai informed him of Reddy's 'misdemeanor'

Reddy soon broke away from Shetty. But not before he went on a rampage and destroyed the latter's island bungalow on a Malaysian island.

But gangsters are like old dogs that can't be taught new tricks. Reddy soon reverted to his favorite occupation of extortion.

He was arrested in Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. More than 14 sophisticated weapons were recovered from him. He was released on bail on September 28, 2007.

Babu Reshim (Architect Of Byculla Company)

Babu Reshim was responsible for laying the foundation stone of the organized mafia syndicates in the city.

From an ordinary canteen worker in a shipbuilding workshop at Mazgoan, in 1975, Reshim's rise in the world of crime was very steady.

Dubai based gangster Sharad Shetty, Appu Shetty and Mahesh Dholakia had hired Vikram Kanjari to plan a counter attack on the rivals. Reshim was lucky to escape an attempt on his life at X-Lane at Byculla, in 1987.

He was killed when Vijay Kanjari, Raju Bhaiya, Mahesh Maskar and Appu Shetty stormed the police lockup at Saat Raasta or Jacob Circle, with hand grenades and firearms the same year. Though Sharad Shetty was a close

associate of Dawood Ibrahim, he was jealous of Rama Naik and Reshim's clout in central Mumbai, resulting in the killing on March 5, 1987.

Bada Kala Coat

Bada kala coat often refers to a judge in underworld lingo. *Bada (big)* indicates the status of the judge.

Bada Rupaiya

It could mean a *khoka* (One crore). Gangland lexicon usually depends on the gang member and who he is conversing with. If a gangster from Uttar Pradesh is talking to one from Konkan in south Maharashtra, then the lingo would be different. Gangster Chhota Rajan is always heard using the word *khoka.* Members of the Abu Salem gang would say *bada rupaiya.*

Baja (Musical Instrument)

Baja or a musical instrument is often used to refer to a handgun. The name is derived from the fact a gun makes noise when fired, just like a musical instrument when switched on.

Bakri (Goat)

Bakri in underworld lingo, stands for a car or any four-wheeler to be used for killing.

Bakri Dabba

The arrest of a gangster is referred to as *Bakri Dabba.* If you split the words it

becomes clear why: *Bakri* stands for a scapegoat and *dabba* is for the cage. When a gangster is arrested and escorted in a police van it looks like a goat trapped in a cage.

Bali Ka Bakra

June 29, 1998. Suave Joint Commissioner of Police, D Sivanandhan, had just entered the granite corridor of the Crime Branch Office, to take charge when his mobile phone rang.

It was bad news for the 1976 batch of the Indian Police Service officer. Minutes earlier, Chhota Rajan's men had shot dead 1993 Bombay bomb blast accused Mohammed Zindran and his friend Krishna Pande at Khar.

"Bali ka bakra to nahin ban gaya hu main?" (Am I becoming a scapegoat?) reasoned Sivanandhan who thought his career would be blotched up by these shootouts.

The turnaround started with the gunning of four Chhota Rajan gangsters near Dadar, on November 11, 1998. "Indeed it was the turning point," recalls Sivanandhan. Later, Sivanandhan's men eliminated 204 gangsters during his tenure between 1998 and 2000. One may now ask, *"Bakra kaun*?" (who is the victim?)

Bapat

Amar Naik was the leader of the notorious Bapat gang which was started by Sitaram Dada, in the 1970s, and held sway over Dadar area. In Dadar's wholesale vegetable market, Bapat is still an unofficial currency.

The vegetable market and crowded street corners of Dadar also became the venue of regular battles between the Valgi-Palgi and Golden Gang in the 70s.

The Valgi-Palji gang was led by Dilip Ramji Boricha alias Valgi and the Golden Gang by Chandrakant Kopde alias Babya, who had the blessing of

Vardharajan Mudaliar alias Vardhabhai.

Valgi had taken over the reins from former leader Sitaram Dada in 1972. Amar Naik took over from Valgi.

The rise of the Golden Gang pointed at how incredibly possessive the underworld was of their territories. "Each gang was seeking a bigger slice of the mafia's protection money from businessmen and matka operator," says Chandrakant Khopde.

Naik was killed in an encounter on August 10, 1996 and his younger brother Ashwin took over the operations.

Batch Of 1983

Over the years, the campaign to stem the rising tide of the underworld in Mumbai has been carried out by a group of 'encounter specialists', all of them coincidentally from the same class of police recruits.

Check the antecedents of the 600-odd dreaded gangsters killed in separate encounters across Mumbai over the past few years. It is almost certain that each time the gangster was eliminated by a squad comprising officers from the 1983 batch of police sub-inspectors.

Take the case of Arun Gawli's top aide, Sada Pawle alias Mama. The latter was shot dead by Vijay Salaskar, from the 1983 batch. Chhota Rajan's key henchman Vinod Matkar was gunned down by batchmate Pradeep Sharma. Gangster Chhota Shakeel's key lieutenant Anwar Badshah was killed by Praful Bhosle, again from the 1983 batch.

Similarly, Shashikant Sagvekar alias Chikna Babu was done in by Ravindranath Angre, Mangesh Shinde by Arun Borude and D.K. Rao was the target of Rajan Ghule, all three policemen of the same vintage.

Over the years, other names like Anant Kenjale, Rajan Pillai and former policeman Aslam Momin-have also proved to be the nemesis for the members of the underworld.

Batla

Batla in underworld lingo refers to someone who is short.

Kingpin Haji Mastan had opened the door of his office at Carnac Bundar, when athletically-built Batla strode into the office, plonked himself on a chair, flung his legs on the table and stared into the don's eyes.

"Batla kise ka Gulam nahin ke tum uske gale me patta dal do." (Batla is not your slave that you could put a collar around his neck, remarked the short gangster before storming out of the room.

Hajibhai, as Mastan was known, had heard of Batla's daring pursuits and wanted the gangster to work for him. Joining hands would mean safeguarding the don's business interests in the area.

Mastan's business had expanded over the years. He needed someone who could protect his contraband from the docks to its final destination.

Born Sayed Latif Kazi, Batla, the nickname he had acquired because of short stature, was notorious in Dongri. He had formed a deadly combination with Ayub Lala, another local goon.

Batla was already named in a few robberies and extortion cases. He was a force to reckon with from his hangout near Dagli Mills in Dongri, recalled his former associate Iqbal Yeda.

Bakhshish (Good Luck)

Pakmodia House saw the rise of the Dawood Ibrahim gang but the family had also seen some gloomy days.

Ibrahim Kaskar Senior, a jamadar in the police, had 11 mouths to feed, and there was never enough money.

Sometimes, senior Kaskar would look to his old friend Haji Mastan for some 'good luck', which in those days meant '*bakhshish'*. Armed with the 'good luck' the happy young Kaskars would run out to buy provisions for dinner, recalls Hanif Saven, Dawood's foster brother.

Bandiya Adilkar (The Man Who Challenged The Golden Gang)

Kabaddi was Santosh Adilkar's first love. So much so that he later tried to use muscle power to change the rules of the game and recruited his friends to the state team.

Between workouts at the gymnasium and practice sessions on *kabaddi* fields, Adilkar alias Bandya, would work as an errand boy for the Golden Gang, headed by Babya Khopde. He was popular with members of the gang, supplying them with regular quotas of cigarettes and alcohol to make some pocket money, which is why he was known as 'Bandya' among senior members of the gang.

All was well until Bandya was beaten up by Khopde after an eve-teasing incident near the Sun Mill Compound—the gang's usual hangout till 1990. It was the turning point in his life. Thereafter, he began working for Arun Gawli, having sworn to avenge the humiliation.

By 1992, Bandya was quite close to Gawli after a steady climb up the gangland ladder. He posed a major threat to members of the Khopde gang by eliminating the Ratish brothers, Khopde's trusted lieutenants.

The impact of the murders was so strong that Khopde fled from the vicinity of the Sun Mills Compound at Byculla west, and sought safer haven in Borivali.

Soon after, he was named in at least four murders, including that of a cable network official Ram Punjabi, and builder Manish Shah at Gamdevi, between 1997 and 1998.

Police records indcate his involvement in terrorising coaches of *kabaddi*

teams so that his friends could get selected to the state championships. Bandya was killed in an encounter on January 15, 2000.

Bandi

Bandi is the locking of the barracks in the jail. A head count is generally preceeded before the main door is locked for the night.

Bangdi (Bangle)

Bangdi generally means a handcuff. It is a word often used by policemen and gangsters in Mumbai.

Beta (Son)

A new recruit generally gets carried away when the gang's second-in-command address him with respect by using words like *'beta'*. He is soon induced to work for the gang.

"Beta, what do you thing I am going to do with all the money? It is for all of us. Do some good work in Mumbai and head for Dubai or Karachi," is what Chhota Shakeel would often say to his recruits.

It is looked at as flattery and emotional tactics to gain youngsters' loyalty and trust.

Beta Paise Jama Nahin Karvaya ? (The Money Has Not Been Deposited Yet?)

This is a term generally used by members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang to remind a target to pay up the extortion money. The polite request is often followed by threats to life.

Bhai

The chief executive of the D-Company is simply called *Bhai.* After years of use, it has become a pseudonym not only for an underworld don, but the others who are aspirants to the position; Dawood Ibrahim is the original *Bhai,* in a way no don before him was.

Bhai Kasle

Bhai Kasle ruled the streets of Parel, in central Mumbai, in the late 1960s. Most of his money came from illicit liquor and ''*Matka* (betting) dens. His contemporary was gangster Ram Talwar. (he acquired the nick name *talwar*., Hindi for sword, for his mastery in use of the weapon.)

Bhatta (Prisoner's Food)

Bhatta or dinner in Mumbai jails comprises of three dry chappatis, a cup of thin dal and one *katori* (cup) of rice weighing around 500 grams.

Bill Lena (To Accept Responsibility)

Bill lena, is a term generally used when a gangster accepts responsibility for a killing. Often, it is a calculated risk which he undertakes to launch himself in the upper echelons of the underworld.

Blue (Rs 100)

'Blue' in underworld lingo means Rs 100. 'Half blue' is Rs 50. These words originated in the 1950s. They are popular in and around Dongri.

Boski

The early growth of Mumbai's underworld can be traced to smuggled Boski fabric in the mid-1970s. But smuggling soon gave way to recovery or *'vasuli'* when the gangs gained importance.

Businessmen like Mahesh and Arvind Dholakia, hired Shabir Kaskar and his younger brother Dawood Ibahim to recover their dues. The Pathan duo of Amirzada and Alamzeb found employment with Haji Mastan as his recovery agents.

The smuggling of Boski cloth began with the Gujarat syndicate, mostly fishermen who wanted to make quick money. There were other products too, like cloves, cinnamon, lighter stone, transistors and cigarettes.

It was then called the retail business and almost all the contraband was smuggled in from Dubai, in the late 1960s.

Haroon Talab held sway over the Kutch coast. The coastal belt near Surat was under Ratilal Navik. Bana Khalap and Lalu Jogi were active along the Daman coast. Sukur Narian Bhakia rose from being an ordinary fishing trawler owner to becoming one of the biggest smugglers in the former Portuguese colony.

Soon the smugglers added other items like gold, 80-20 KT stretchlon trouser material, 66/67 KT, Tan Ton stretch, 1470 stretchlon trouser fabric and 644 saris to the list. A 25-meter roll of Boski cloth that was available for around Rs 225 in Daman, was sold for twice the price, in Mumbai.

Smugglers like Mahesh and Arvind Dholakia among others, hired a fleet of vehicles to smuggle in the contraband from the Union Territory of Daman, about 200 kilometers from Mumbai. Sometimes cavities in the coal engines were used for smuggling textiles.

Aziz Konkani smuggled his goods from the Konkan coast and most of his material was sold at south Mumbai's Manish Market.

Soon, some of the retailers developed direct contacts with traders in Dubai as a cost-cutting measure. Goods were supplied to outlets in Musafirkhana, Manish Market and Gandhi Market at Matunga. The task of collecting cash in the evenings was given to gangs that fought amongst themselves for the lion's share of underworld income.

Bochkiya (Hirman Kotekar)

According to police records, Bochkiya became a lone operator, involved in a large number of robberies and extortions before switching to land grabbing in and around Worli. He was also involved in a number of rape cases in the slums in the Dadar-Prabhadevi area, between 1998 and 2001. The needle of suspicion in several other cases pointed to Bochkiya.

A Crime Branch officer Mahesh Desai, closed in on him after spotting him near Prabhadevi on October 27, 2002. According to the police, he was killed in an exchange of fire.

Brown

'Brown' is an abbreviation for 'Brown Sugar' or a *'pud?*, a small packet of smack available on the streets of Mumbai. It is inferior version of Heroin and mostly consumed by rag pickers. The selling price is Rs 3 lakh per kilogram.

Byculla and D-Company Lock Horns

Gangsters from Byculla's Dagdi Chawl kidnapped Dawood Ibrahim's key associate and financer, Mahendra Choradia, in 1989. The news expectedly sent the don into a fit of rage.

Dawood desperately tried to contact Arun Gawli but the latter was away. Dawood was familiar with Dagdi Chawl from his regular visits to Rama Naik

and Babu Reshim in the past.

Dawood's attempts to reason with Kishore Gawli alias Papa were unsuccessful. The Gawli sibling refused to take the sensible way out.

Choradia was tortured for three days in a building under construction, in Dagdi Chawl. Gang members, anticipating a rescue attempt, kept their rivals in the know of the captive's position. They even let Dawood listen to Choradia's screams over the telephone. The businessman was a 'money bag' and knew everything about D-Company's investments.

Three days later, Choradia became a victim of vengeance killing. The gang was offered money before he was killed. His mutilated body was found outside Dagdi Chawl. The Byculla Company was offered money, which was turned down.

Dawood's men retaliated by killing Papa at Mahim. There were eight other killings. It was now a full-fledged war between the two gangs.

Bullet-Proof Glass (Not So Secure)

The gunning down of Satish Raje in broad daylight, at a busy traffic junction in Byculla in 1987, is a grim reminder of how fragile the beefiest security can be. It was the first time a killer had smashed the windscreen of a car with a hammer before shooting at point blank range.

Dawood Ibrahim's key lieutenant Satish Raje had actually been tipped off about a plot to kill him, in 1988. He had been a prime target ever since gangsters began attacking finance controller's of rival gangs.

Dawood's younger brother Noora presented a spanking new Mercedes to Raje. It was an incentive for handling a construction company as a front for the gang's fundraising activities.

Raje rejected the warnings. He reasoned; could an imported bullet-proof car be targeted? He believed the glasses were so thick that bullets would simply ricochet off.

Rival gangster Ashok Joshi was zeroing in on Raje, who was believed to be a fairly soft target. The motivation was revenge for the death of Joshi's mentor, Rama Naik.

It set a deadly pattern. The same modus operandi was seen when Amar Naik's men killed Khatau mill owner Sunit Khatau, at Mahalaxmi in 1994. A hammer came in handy to break the window of Khatau's car as it stopped at the traffic intersection. His body was then riddled with bullets.

In 1995, Chhota Rajan's former lieutenant Guru Satam and another hitman Joe D'souza smashed the windscreen of the Mercedes in which East West Airlines Director, Mohammed Takkiuddin was travelling, at Bandra. Takkiuddin died within minutes, of multiple bullet wounds.

The method was used again in 1998, when Chhota Shakeel's associate Shaukat Sarkar was targeted. Sarkar, known for his fascination for fast imported cars, also firmly believed that bullet—proof glasses could protect him from an ambush. He, like the others, was proved wrong.

Camera (Weapon)

When a ringleader tells the artist to bring a camera, it actually means that the shooter bring the weapon and akin to having a camera, aim and shoot a perfect picture.

Capsule (Bullet)

Capsules are also known as bullets in underworld lingo. The word originated because both look similar.

Cassette (Magazine)

A magazine used in a 9 mm caliber Star pistol is called 'cassette' in underworld lingo. The weapon is mostly used by members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang.

A China-made Star pistol with a cassette containing nine rounds can be bought from an illegal arms dealer for anything between Rs 20,000 to Rs 60,000. Some gangs get their supplies from across the borders.

Cat

Cat means Rs 10,000 in the underworld. Cat is generally an abbreviation for a pack of playing cards. When a gangster tells his associate to bring a pack of playing cards, it actually means Rs 10,000 in underworld lingo.

Chabbis (26)

The word *chabbis* is used to refer to a young, promiscuous girl. It denotes an 'item girl' in underworld lingo.The word could have originated from a very lean waist.

Chad Jana

Chad jana or *Chada* is a term used when a police squad or a rival gangster enter a premises to investigate, arrest or intimidate a goon. It is considered an insult.

Chai Pau

In underworld lingo, a *chai pau* is someone who is very close to the boss; close enough to break bread together.

Chakri (Chamber of a revolver & Balu Dokre)

A 16-year-old dribbles past the crowd, like a skilled footballer, with the police chasing him along the beach abutting Peddar Road, in south Mumbai.

Suddendly, the lean youth removes the '*chakri*' (chamber) from his revolver and tosses it into the sea. Seconds later, he is apprehended by the police.

The shooter and his two associates, Bharkiyabhai and Andyabhai, went scot free after a brief trial. The police could never explain to the magistrate how a handgun without a chamber could have been fired.

Seventeen years later, the understudy from Chandgad near Kolhapur, rose to become one of Mumbai's deadliest contract killer—Kiran Keshav Dokre alias Balubhai-gangster Chhota Rajan's key associate. He was killed near Kaula Lumpur in Malaysia, on May 22, 2005.

Chalu Bank

The Byculla Company had kept aside an amount of Rs 30 lakh for what may be called contingency fund. The money was to be used only in case of an emergency within the gang. The fund was managed by Sharad Bandve until he was killed in an encounter

Chamda (Man Enamored By Women)

Chamda is a dubious sobriquet for gangsters who are enamored by women. Mostly, it refers to luring girls for bars and red-light areas or for quick sex.

This word is mostly used in the back streets of Central Mumbai. *Chamda* also means skin in Hindi and the flesh trade.

Chanda (Donation)

Gangster Fazul-ur-Rehman was often heard reasoning with the targets to pay up."Hum *paise kahan mangte hain. Hum to sirf chanda mangte hain*." (I am not demanding ransom. I am only asking for donation), he would reason with his targets over the phone. He would further reason to his associates that God gave too much money to some people and told them,,"God asked us to take the surplus. *Bindas mango"* (ask wihout hesitation).

Chappal

In the underworld lingo, *chappal* is another word for a weapon. *'Ek jodi 9 number chappal bhej raha hoon*' (I am sending a pair of size 9 slippers), has a dangerous meaning: 'I'm dispatching a pair of 9 mm caliber pistol.'

Chappal Ki Jodi Le Kar Ana

'Chappal ki jodi le kar ana' means, come to the spot armed. The word *'jodi'* or pair is coined from a *'chakri'* or revolving chamber in a revolver.

Char Tang Par (To Escape In A Vehicle)

Ramesh Surve alias Ramya Butler, Vinod Matkar, and Sanjay Ghate were in Nepal to kill Nepalese Member of Parliament, Mirza Dilshad Baig. Nepalese gangster Karan Singh Mansingh was included in the death squad, executed by Balu Dokre.

Balu Dokre, Chhota Rajan's most trusted lieutenant, was behind 50 high profile murders in the 1990s. He was quiet but known to be a man of action.

It was a chilly afternoon on November 16, 1998. Baig was seated on the back seat of his SUV heading towards Bhaktava near Kathmandu to meet his wife who he had married in secret.

A trap was laid to eliminate Baig. The chase lasted around 15 minutes before the shooters managed to intercept Baig's vehicle, barely 50 meters from the entrance to his bungalow. Initially, the plan was to kill him inside the SUV.

Baig managed to slip out of the vehicle and darted towards the gate of his mansion. Seconds later, Dokre pulled out his 9 mm and locked it on the target. The next moment, the bullet had entered the back of Baig's head and exploded out of his forehead.

As Baig stumbled on to the road, Dokre caught up with his target. The cold-blooded shooter sat close to the body and pumped two more bullets for safe measure.

Meanwhile, Baig's driver or *rakshak* was shot at close range by Ghate as he struggled out of the vehicle. The chatter of the weapons was enough to alert Baig's guards inside the hideout. Sensing trouble, the Mumbai gangsters hopped on to the getaway vehicle. "*Char tang pe bagho*," yelled Dokre. They hopped into the getaway vehicle and escaped.

Charlie

'Charlie' means cocaine with Mumbai's underworld and African traffickers. Street value per gram is around Rs 3000, and more than US $ 10,000 per kilogram for the person who finances the consignment.

Chatis (36)

'Chatis ka akda' or number 36 means not in good terms with somebody. This word also originated from the game *China Peti.*

Chaubis (24)

Chaubis or 24 stands for a pretty girl in underworld lingo. The word originated from a slim waist size of 24 inches. It is a derogatory word used by gangsters.

Cheeta

Cheeta or *peti'* actually means one lakh rupees. This colloquial term is used among bookies to mislead the police and members of the underworld, who demand protection money from them.

Chhamiya (Damsel Who Started The Dawood-Pathan War)

Congress House, a famous haunt for denizens of the underworld where the girls were *latak jatak*, a common lingo in the red-light districts of Mumbai. February 12, 1981. It was well past midnight and the girls at Congress House, an up-market dancing joint in Mumbai Central, had finished their routine *mujras.* Dawood's elder brother Shabir alias Arab, had a soft corner for one of the dancers, Chitra. She was extremely beautiful and the rival thought of using her as a bait.

Chitra wanted Shabir to take her out of the mujra hall to experience the nightlife. Shabir obliged and with Chitra beside him, set off towards Bandra, unaware that members of the rival Pathan gang were trailing their Fiat in a white Ambassador car.

The trailing actually began at Haji Ali and the Pathan gang closed in on the Fiat as it halted at a petrol pump opposite Siddhi Vinayak temple in Prabhadevi.

It was around 1.30 am and Shabir was aghast to see Amirzada, Alamzeb and Jaffar Jamal Siddique and two others. Chitra stepped out of the car and disappeared in the dark night.

Shabir had barely gotten over his surprise when the trio pumped five bullets into their target leaving him lifeless in the car.

The assailants got into the Ambassador and sped off in the direction of Pakmodia Street, the Kaskars' residence. The plan was to take Dawood by surprise even before the news of his elder brother could reach him.

This marked beginning of a war resulting in the elimination of over 50 gangsters, including their relatives, in the next ten years.

Chera (Face)

Chera, in underworld lingo means helping the police identify a wanted man.

Sayed Topi was actually killed because he helped the police *'chera'* i.e. identified gangster Chhota Shakeel's bother-in-law, Aarif Abubaker Shaikh alias Bhaijan.

Sayed Topi was not aware that the police officer was close to Chhota Shakeel. The conversation with the cop was recorded and replayed before Dawood Ibrahim. Sayed was killed by the same officer, whom he had helped to identify Bhaijan.

Chhatri (Financer & Sympathizer)

The Dholakia brothers' story is something that Bollywood potboilers are made of these days.

The Gujarati duo Arvind and Mahesh began life as sons of a small-time cloth merchant in Null Bazaar, in Central Mumbai. The father had entered the cloth business for quick money and by the time the sons were bumped off, they were a kissing distance away from the top rungs of the underworld ladder in Mumbai.

On October 13, 1987, well-dressed Mahesh Dholakia left his Peddar Road residence when rival shooters emerged near Haji Ali junction.

Around 30 rounds were sprayed, killing Mahesh on the spot. The debonair businessmen had failed to see what lay ahead when they entered the murky waters of *bhailand.* They were among the trend-setting '*seths*' who began financing underworld operations.

The Dholakias, who owned textile shops near Do Taki (two tanks) in Mumbai, grew up in the narrow bylanes of Khetwadi, in south Mumbai, before coming in contact with Dawood, who Mahesh Dholakia, the elder brother, was to later finance.

Arvind and Mahesh took to smuggling of textiles and trafficking, using local goon like Yeda Gopal's muscle power to run their operations in central Mumbai.

The Dholakias committed their first mistake when the brothers financed the hiring of Chandrashekar Safalika to kill Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan. The rest unrolled like a Bollywood blockbuster. The fallout was the fatal shootout near Tardeo. A year later, Arvind too was gunned down in true underworld dramatic style at Caesar's Palace.

The police later arrested Jagjit Singh, Dilip Kulkarni and one Matik, all alleged Dawood henchmen.

Chhota Babu's Double Cross

Ashok Chaudhary alias Chhota Babu was respected not only because he was one of the oldest members of the gang or a close friend of gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli's mentor Rama Naik. He was also the gang's 'money bag', who collected *"hajta* for the outfit.

All was well until some senior members of the Gawli gang discovered that Dawood Ibrahim sympathizers often approached Chhota Babu for settlements, when targeted by the Gawli gang.

Gawli's key lieutenant Sada Pawle alias Mama had to reduce the ransom by almost 50 percent each time Chhota Babu intervened. This was enough to arouse suspicion in their minds. The vigil paid off and not long thereafter, Pawle targeted a builder from Bandra having links with Dawood Ibrahim and demanded Rs. one crore as protection money. As expected, the victim approached Chhota Babu and the ransom was settled for Rs. 20 lakh.

Chhota Babu was unaware that his associates were spying on him. A few months later, Pawle called the same builder and demanded an installment of Rs. 5 lakhs as *hafta*. He wasn't surprised when the target informed him that he had just paid Rs. 20 lakh to Chhota Babu, which was in addition to the Rs. 20 lakh paid to settle the earlier ransom demand.

Babu had betrayed the don's trust and collected Rs. 20 lakh without his knowledge. They also suspected that he could be working for the police as

their informer.

The mystery was bared when the crime branch arrested Raju Sirsat, Manoj Raghvan, Rahul Pol and Vijay Narsale in connection with the Bhukari murder case: the gang began to suspect that Babu may have informed the police.

Their suspicion was strengthened when the gangsters learnt that the police were asking all the right questions in connection with the murder.

Slain gangster Vijay Shirodkar alias Sade Teen, was arrested in connection with Babu's murder. Others named in the case were Ganesh Bhosale alias Vakil and Pawle, all shot dead in subsequent encounters.

Chhota Ganya

Ganesh Salvi alias Chhota Ganya, was initiated into crime by Ganesh Sawant alias Ganya Sawant, around 1993. His diminutive five feet frame earned him his nickname *'Chhota Ganya*. The apprentice killer broke off from Sawant in 1997, after a booty sharing disagreement, each swearing to kill the other.Ganya was inducted into the Chhota Rajan gang by Sunil Madgoankar during their stint in jail in 1998. He moved up the gangland ladder after befriending key lieutenants like Rohit Verma and Jaggu Shetty. The gangster was killed in an encounter at Thane by a squad led by Ravindra Angre on April 4, 2002.

Chhota Kasu (Dawood's Challenger)

Dawood Ibrahim was in his lucky silver Toyota 'Tripple Ekka', when the car came to a halt at a traffic signal, near Mahim church.

A white Ambassador pulled up alongside. After a brief exchange of words, one of the occupants alighted and strode towards the Toyota.

"Kal tak %amin pe rengte phirte the who; par nikal aye to parwana bane."

(Till yesterday, you were crawling about like a worm. Now that you've sprouted wings, you think you've become a moth). It was a gauntlet thrown in no uncertain terms by thief turned drug trafficker Chhota Kasu.

Lambu Shakeel and Hanif Kutta who were the other occupants of the Toyota were witness to the insult. But Dawood refused to rise to the bait. He just asked Lambu Shakeel to change routes and start moving. A victorious Kasu, accompanied by two beaming associates, headed to his stronghold near Null Bazar in south Mumbai.

Not many—even in Mumbai's nefarious underworld—would have had the courage to challenge Dawood Ibrahim in public. But Chhota Kasu, was at his peak in 1970, when Dawood was just learning the rules of the game—how to be patient and wait for the right opportunity.

Chhota Rajan (Nana Ka Jai Hind)

Born Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje, Chhota Rajan began as an understudy to Rajan Nair, then the undisputed underworld king of north Mumbai. To distinguish between the new recruit and his master, the prefix of *Chhota* and *Bada* were affixed to them respectively. Bada Rajan was shot dead while being escorted to the Esplanade Court in south Mumbai on September 15, 1983.

This is when Chhota Rajan, the front line gangster of the slain Rajan, took over the reins of the gang. Later, in 1987, Chhota Rajan escaped to Dubai to become Dawood Ibrahim's second-in-command, before parting company with the D-Company six year later. Believed to be holed up in South East Asia, he is popularly known as the 'Hindu Don'. He is also considered close to some officials in an Indian central intelligence agency.

Chhota Rupaiya

Chhota rupaiya could mean one lakh. It is not very common terminology but is used by a few gangsters from Uttar Pradesh operating in Mumbai.

Chhota Shakeel

In the early days of his career, there were many Shakeels operating in Mumbai's underworld. One of these, Shakeel Sheikh, was tall and hefty and thus, naturally nicknamed Lambu Shakeel. So, when Shakeel Mohiuddin Babu Sheikh entered the world of crime and stood just an inch or two over five feet, he naturally earned the nickname Chhota Shakeel. Today, he is the right-hand-man of gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

Shakeel started as a small-time air-conditioner repair technician from his dingy premises on Temkar Street, before joining hands with Dawood Ibrahim. He was an avid cricket enthusiast and played matches in the narrow lanes of central Mumbai before escaping to Dubai and later Pakistan. Arch rival of Chhota Rajan, whom he replaced after the latter broke away from the D-Company, he is also known as *'Pau Takla'* because he is now bald. Shakeel is wanted in connection with more than a dozen high-profile cases in Mumbai and is now leaning towards Muslim fundamentalism, says Joint Commissioner of Police, Rakesh Maria.

Chidiya (Bird/Pager)

Gangster Chhota Shakeel's key shooter in Mumbai, Sadiq Ismail Jalwar alias Sadiq Kalia was very elusive. He was also among the most dreaded contract killers spreading terror among members of the rival Chhota Rajan gang, in the mid-1990s.

The Criminal Investigation Unit of the crime branch, finally got wind of Sadiq's pager number. It was kept under observation.

But the pager or *chidya* soon went dead. Apparently a crime branch officer had tipped-off Chhota Shakeel, who in turn, alerted his trusted lieutenant about the tapping of the instrument.

Normally, the trail would have dried up. But the sleuths paid Rs 1,250 as

arrears to keep the pager service active.

Two months later, the subscriber received a message that he was being offered 15 days free service and an offer to renew the contract by paying the arrears. Little was the subscriber aware that it was a ploy to track him down.

The pager was suddenly active again. But there was one problem. The pager was not with Sadiq Kalia, but his key associate, Salim Chikna.

The police had information that Salim Chikna and Kalia were involved in about ten murders in Mumbai and Thane. Information was, that while Chikna rode the getaway motorcycle, Kalia did the shooting.

The crime branch officers were facing an uphill task as Kalia never waited for more than five minutes at a public telephone booth to receive a reply from Chikna. Messages were paged to Chikna from across the city, making it difficult to pinpoint his position.

Crime branch officers fanned out across the city but Kalia was always one step ahead.

Finally, Chikna received a message which read 'Be at Alexander Cinema in Central Mumbai at 7 pm'. Newly appointed police sub-inspector Daya Nayak, who was a member of the squad, was in central Mumbai so he decided to take a chance.

Little-known Nayak was in a Maruti Zen waiting for his prey. A few minutes later, a Yamaha motorcycle halted outside the dilapidated cinema hall.

The anxious rider waited, unaware that a police team was watching him closely. A few minutes later, as he tried to kick-start his bike, Chikna was stunned to see Nayak astride on the pillion. Chikna, who initially thought it was his associate, was a little shocked to see an unfamiliar face.

"Mai Daya Nayak hoon" (I am Daya Nayak), the young cop whispered. "I am armed. Get inside the car." Chikna had little choice but to follow orders. Though Kalia did not show up at the place of rendezvous, the police now had a decoy that could help them close in on him. The tracking was done by

esrtwhile Additional Commissioner of Police, Dr Satya Pal Singh.

Chikna (Handsome)

Known as *chikna,* Nitesh Kasare's feminine mystique held the key to many serious offences. Standing just a little over 5 feet 2 inches, with handsome features, Kasare would dress up as a Punjabi damsel to carefully check out the residential complexes and shopping zones without raising suspicions. He would walk like a woman, mimicking their mannerism and his clean shaven and *chikna* appearances helped his disguise.

Originally from Srivardhan in Raighad district, Kasare was first involved in a street fight at Khar, in 1998. He went on to pick pockets before he joined a gang of robbers. According to police records, Kasare with key associates Ram Borade and Akkpada, were involved in stealing more than 20 kilograms of gold and 103 kilograms of silver, worth more than Rs 1crore from jewellers in central Mumbai between 1994 and 1996.

Chhota Rajan hired Kasare after news of his exploits spread through the grapevine. After being named in more than 30 serious offences, Kasare suddenly moved up the hierarchy of the Rajan gang by shooting former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azaruddin's friend and businessman, Ashraf Patel in April 2000. The latter was targeted for his alleged links with rival Dawood Ibrahim's gang. Kasare was killed on June 15, 2000.

Chindis (Robbers)

Robbers are generally called *Chindis* or rags in Mumbai's underworld.

Chindis, crime branch officer Pradeep Sharma explains, are basically robbers who are employed by dons as shooters.

A relatively new profession, its demand grew in 1995 after *chindi* Jaggu Shetty alias Fakira and his associates Rohit Verma, D K Rao and Vinod Matkar got arrested for looting Rs 66 lakh from a bank in Thane. Matkar

contacted Guru Satam, who arranged for his bail. Verma in the meantime, was introduced to Chhota Rajan alias Nana. Later Rao and Shetty joined the 'Nana Company' too.

Soon, contract killings were taken up by robbers as an alternative profession for a very good reason. If a robber is arrested, the whole gang is usually busted very soon. This leaves them with no good source to arrange their bail or provide them with a *dabba* (home cooked food) in the jail.

These *chindis* then need the influential dons and gangs to arrange for their bail and provide them with 'jobs' after their release.

Chindis are also often considered to be a liability, for if arrested, they reveal the entire gang's plans. Despite the shortcomings, many *chindis* have been promoted to frontline shooters by gangsters like Chhota Rajan, Ashwin Naik and Ravi Pujari in the recent past.

Chor Pakya

Prakash Sakpal alias Pakya's penchant for snakes developed when as a child, he was taught to handle snakes in his native village near Satara. He had a veritable collection of snakes at his residence near Vile Parle. Some of the deadly looking reptiles were purchased from charmers visiting the city, sources say.

Initially, Pakya started as a small-time robber operating in the Sahar-Vile Parle area. Most of his targets were hoteliers. Pakya's modus operandi was to unnerve his targets by throwing snakes at them when they would be busy counting money. Even before the petrified victims knew what had hit them, the short but well-built robber would disappear with the booty as well as the snake, which he carried in a small cotton bag.

Circle

A term used in Arthur Road jail for those who are not affiliated to gangs, the

word 'circle' could have originated from the fact that ordinary inmates are lodged in the inner circle of the jail. They have to do odd jobs for a little extra food.

Clinton (Fake American Dollar Bills)

One of the key players in the fake American dollar bills has identified as Santosh Shetty, a former member of the Chhota Rajan gang.

Police investigations have indicated that Shetty was procuring fake currency paper from a dubious operator in China. The paper is used to print fake dollar, which is known as 'Clinton' in underworld lingo.

The police in Mumbai had stumbled upon the name of one Michael Fernandez, who is also suspected to be associated with the fake notes syndicate. He has been seen using a shady shipping firm as a front for transporting notes and raw material.

The syndicate also owns a hotel in Kebayoran Baru, near Jakarta in Indonesia. It is being used as a nerve centre for deals in counterfeit currency.

Shetty acquired the name of Rajesh Madan Sharma after he was released from Nasik Jail around 1996, and moved up the gangland ladder after the murder of associate Rohit Verma in Bangkok, on September 16, 2000.

Commander (Can't Win Encounters Without Them)

He could be your savvy next-door neighbour, a successful businessman flashing a gold chain or a stock broker married to his mobile. What he definitely isn't, is a *Pandu* or a policeman in disguise... or, wait a minute, could he be so? If he is Daya Mohite, his tag would say head constable or 'commander' as they are affectionately known among the Mumbai police. Or he could be the flamboyant Allad Gaikwad, another head constable who knows the underworld like the back of his hand.

Vijay Ambekar, Ashok Palande, Prabhu Belkar, Harish Natu, Krishna Jadhav, Santosh Sathe and Vinod Hatiskar are among the 60 other constables that form the core of the squads that stop gangsters in their tracks, felling them during high-profile operations.

While senior police officers or the 'encounter specialists' as they have been dubbed, carry out the vital task in the operation, it is the constables or commanders, who undertake the painstaking groundwork. Among their myriad duties are driving vehicles, rushing the wounded gangsters to hospital, grappling with suspects, recording their statements, systematic maintenance of records on gangsters and shakeouts

Most of them enjoy an enviable status in the force, despite their position on the lowest rung of the ladder and these constables are rarely seen in *khakis.* They are well dressed -sometimes their sartorial sense could even amaze—while others prefer casuals and jeans. Cellphones are a must, as networking is their key to success story.

Company

Life is not so hard for undertrials linked to gangs at Arthur Road jail. They are referred to as 'company', which in jail parlance means extra comfort.

And there is a world of difference between the 'company' and an ordinary prisoner. The company is treated better.

Cricket In Gangsterland

When a Dawood Ibrahim gangster is told that he is being sent a 'season bat' he understands that he will soon get a sophisticated automatic weapon like a Kalasnikov for striking an important target.

Similarly,' *samal ke khelna'* (play carefully), means one should beware of the police. An umpire is a policeman in the underworld lingo. When a gangster says *'umpire se bacho'* it means beware of the police.

Cutting (Tip-Off/Information)

Dawood Ibrahim was desperate to avenge the murder of his brother-in-law Ibrahim Parkar, killed at Nagpada on July 27, 1992. The shooters were identified as Sailesh Haldankar and Bipin Shere, members of the rival Arun Gawli gang.

Haldankar and Shere had sought safe sanctuary at Dagdi Chawl and Dawood's men were unable to target them.

However, the two gangsters were lynched by a mob when they tried to kill a taxi driver at V P Road. The duo were arrested and admitted to J J Hospital on September 2, 1992.

Dawood's men got wind of the arrests and before long the 'cutting' was passed on to the don. The news sent the mastermind in a tizzy. He knew he would not get another chance to avenge Parkar's death.

Dawood knew that the Gawli men would escape if released on bail. Murdering them inside the jail was a difficult proposition.

Close aide Subash Singh Thakur and Sunil Sawant alias Sautya volunteered to eliminate the wanted men. The main shooters received logistic support from Dawood associates Shyamkishore Garigapatti and Ajay Sharma.

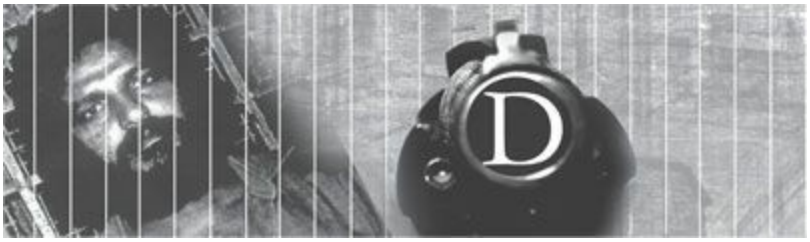
The killer squad barged into J J Hospital prisoner ward number 18 and began spraying bullets from AK 47 rifles, on the night of September 12.

While Haldankar died on the spot, his associate Shere was seriously injured in the attack. Police constables Chintaram Jasver and Kamalsingh Bhanavat were caught in the exchange of fire and succumbed to their injuries.

The assailants escaped in a stolen Fiat car with Ajay Sharma as a passenger. The vehicle was later found abandoned near Kamathipura after Sharma was administered medical treatment by a local doctor.

Around 4 am, they managed to escape in Kalyan-Ulhasnagar Mayor, Jayant Suryarao's official car. The assailants reached a hideout near Malad where Sharma's bullet was removed.

Suryarao's car, not only led to the first clue, but also to his own arrest. A special squad arrested Iqbal Ismail Parkar, Rahim Faki and Ibrahim Antulay from Mukhtiyar Manzil, three days later.



D-Company (Dawood Ibrahim Gang)

The D-Company has its beginnings in the mean streets of central Mumbai—Pakmodia Street, Temkar Street and Bori Mohalla among others and it continues to be the centre for its key operations.

D-Company is Dawood Ibrahim's multi-crore underworld empire spread across the sub-continent and includes his overt and covert friendliness with the intelligence agency The chief executive officer of the D-Company is simply called *'bhai'*.

His younger brothers Noora, Anis and Mustakin are among his key associates in the running of the company.

The story of the D-Company is inevitably and inextricably entwined with the CEO's life-story against the backdrop of India's commercial capital and later in Dubai and Pakistan.

His earliest brush with the 'other world' that was to become his own later, was a hired *pancha* (eye-witness) of the police.

The growth of the D-Company also saw a rise in counterfeit notes, drug trafficking, extortion rackets, Bollywood financing, the *hawala* market and gold smuggling as some of the revenue was taken to Dubai and Pakistan.

Chhota Rajan is now nemisis for D-Company, a man they groomed and trusted with the Mumbai operations broke off and started on his own in 1993. There were others like Abu Salem, Ali Budesh and Ejaz Pathan.

Dabbawallas

The way to an underworld don's heart is surely through his stomach. Or so it seems with the large number of *dabbawalas* wedging their toes in the doors of the underworld by delivering food and rising to take on the mantle of contract killers. A reason for this, say Mumbai police officials, is the vital link the tiffin carrier forms between a gangster in jail and the world beyond the bars.

The manifestation of this phenomenon began with the man, shooter Deepak Gadwal, alias Mangai, who was serving as a *dabbawala* for notorious gangster Simon, before he was promoted to the rank of a shooter. Soon, gangster Chhota Shakeel employed his trigger finger.

Mohammed Sheikh Mohammed Rafiq Dabbawala (37), named in over 80 cases, is behind the sensational attempt on the life of Bollywood producer director, Rakesh Roshan.

Another glaring example is former mafia don Arun Gawli's lieutenant, Ravindra Mogul Pandey alias Major Pandey, who rose from a *dabbawala* to become one of the gang's key shooters. Named in the murder of Vaibhab Kathare in 1992, Pandey rose to become one of the gang's key planners. He has been detained under the provisions of TADA.

Slain gangster Ravindra Sawant joined the Gawli gang as a *dabbawalla* before he was trained by Gawli's key associate, Sada Pawle alias Mama. Disguised as an advocate, Sawant opened fire on Ashwin Naik, on April 18, 1994 injuring him seriously.

Ashwin Naik's main shooter Dhansingh Vishwakarma alias Lali, named in over a dozen murders, including Bhandup-based hoteliers, Kurup brothers, traces his roots to being a *dabbawalla.* Gawli associates Raju Phillips alias Gaikwad, Nandu Fighter and Chhota Shakeel gangster Yusuf Dabba all began as carriers of the tiffin.

Reasons for this are not difficult to see. *Dabbawallas* are often used by their mentors to pass important information, money and cellular phones between the aluminum covers of the tiffin carrier. Sensitive information collected during this period often helps to establish him within the gang.

Daddy (Arun Gulab Gawli)

Arun Gawli alias Daddy, almost got rid of his spine-chilling image and recast himself into the mould of a well-meaning social activist. He floated the political wing of Dagdi Chawl, Akhil Bhartiya Sena (ABS), in 1996.

The party's future was eclipsed when Gawli was arrested in 1998. But the don-turned-politician sees the ABS growing into a political outfit and has been trying to resurrect it.

Gawli's political career got a boost when he was elected Member of the Legislative Assembly from a central Mumbai constituency, in Maharashtra.

Gawli was earlier named in over a dozen serious offences including murders. He has been acquitted in almost all cases.

The former chief of Dagdi Chawl maintains that he was framed by the police. He does not deny the fact that he is still under threat from members of the rival Dawood Ibrahim gang.

The name 'Daddy' stuck after he declared that he wanted to serve the people living around him. His wife Zubeda Muzzawar alias Asha Gawli soon came to be known as 'Mummy'.

Gawli's ambitions are still riding high. He is inching for a social-makeover.

Daddy-Mummy

Arun Gawli is known as 'Daddy' because he assumes a fatherly figure in the outfit. Other associates often refer to his wife Zubeda Muzzawar alias Asha

as 'Mummy'.

Dagdi Chawl

August 18, 1997. Around 2.30 pm, a Maruti 1000 cruised to a halt outside Shanti Star Builders' office in Tulsiani Chambers, located on a busy road that ends in a *cul-de-sac* in Nariman Point. It was lunchtime, and the office goers at this business district had spilt out on to the street for a quick bit at the many roadside stalls. Three men, clad casually in jeans and shirts, walked up to builder Natwarlal Desai who was just getting off his white Maruti 1000. Within a split second, it was raining bullets as the builder lay in a pool of blood.

The daylight daring murder had shot the Mumbai Police's credibility to smithereens. Former army officer and Joint Commissioner of Police R S Sharma, readied himself for grilling from the media. "Sir, any breakthrough?" Sharma: "Not yet. But the needle of suspicion is pointing at the Arun Gawli gang. We definitely have some vital information."

Perhaps Sharma had a trick up his sleeve. The police had laid siege to the fortress-like tenement in Dagdi Chawl, known to be the gangster's hideout for years. Yet, Dagdi Chawl was not a walkover. With secret cellars and dark, dingy alleys, the tenement could leave Hoggart's Castle in the shade, and give Harry Potter a run for his money.

"Whenever the police raided Dagdi Chawl, Gawli used to slip out of his third floor residence to the second floor through a hidden cavity. There were secret cellars in the kitchen, where he hid when the police squads came. It took us a few months to locate the getaways," recalls veteran crime branch officer Praful Bhosle.

The fortress hasn't sprung up overnight. Mumbai's mafia chieftain Rama Naik and his key associate Babu Reshim headed the dreaded 'Byculla Company' from this hideout from the late 1970s till 1988. And like all monuments, Dagdi was a symbol of power. The thick granite wall only added to the imposing facade. The structure was built with the view of shielding the

gangsters from police raids and ambushes from rival shooters. But for the moment, the tension was palpable, and the walls creaked just a wee bit. Trigger-happy Deputy Commissioner of Police, Param Bir Singh couldn't wait for his big break. He had just been transferred to Mumbai after a stint in the Naxalite-hit Bhandara district in Eastern Maharashtra. "I want details on every person visiting Dagdi Chawl," he hollerd to his deputy. "I want special teams to carry out search operations within the chawl. Try to get every piece of information on Gawli's associates."

On the afternoon of August 19, Bhosle, Anant Kenjale, Y L Jadhav and Ashok Khot barged into Dagdi Chawl. After a thorough search of the adjoining buildings, the squad entered the main building, where Gawli was ensconced. One of the accompanying constables was carrying a crowbar.

Gawli was left with few options, and clung to his wife, Zubeda Muzzawar alias Asha Gawli, like a helpless child. Appropriately, Asha Gawli was called 'Mummy' by the gang. A journalist on the beat is a silent spectator and more: he is a big hindrance for the cops.

Bhosle tried to separate Gawli, but to no avail. The cops then rushed down the flight of stairs to find the doors locked on the second floor. They broke open the door with the crowbar.

Vijay Kamble alias Muchwa, Vijay Shrirodkar alias Sade Teen and Pankaj Pande alias Jitu were gunned down, in what is euphemistically known as 'exchange of fire'.

Dagdi Shootout

1991. Dawood Ibrahim's key shooters Sunil Sawant, Anil Parab, Bachi Pandey, Baba Gabriel and Sanjay Ruggad, barged into Dagdi Chawl and opened indiscriminate firing with AK 47 assault rifles. They were trying to avenge the death of Amir Lambu and Yusuf Lamba, both involved in the murder of ganglord Rama Naik.

Earlier, Byculla Company shooters Tanya Koli, Bandya Adilkar and Appa

Rane alias Kaccha Papad attacked Pakmodia Street to eliminate the Amir-Yusuf duo. Pakmodia Street was considered Dawood Ibrahim's stronghold.

Dambar (Tar)

Dambar often refers to a target who has dark complexion. A dark gangster is also known as *'dambriya'*.

Dana (Grain)

Dana refers to live rounds. It is a relatively old term used by Dawood Ibrahim and his henchmen in the early 1980s.

Dawood Shamsher Khan

Dawood Shamsher Khan alias Shafi Khan is believed to be the man who help Dawood Ibrahim run his drug cartel spread across the globe.

Though Khan operates from Gujarat, his roots are in Mumbai. He began working for drug lord Karim Lala as a personal bodyguard at Dongri, in1986. But the association did not last long-Khan had bigger plans for himself.

His first killing was local goon Hamid Aziz, who was shot dead near Fun and Food Bar in south Mumbai in 1987. This was followed by the murder of Munna, a gangster near Navjeevan society, at Mumbai Central.

He shifted base to Gujarat where he tied up with local don Latif Khan and his younger brother and were named in over 30 murders in the following six years.

Khan fled to Dubai to seek safe passage to Pakistan after Latif was gunned down in an encounter near Ahmedabad, in 1999. While he got closer to Dawood Ibrahim, several other gang members were upset with his steady

ascent up the gang ladder.

According to a crime branch officer, Khan is now among Dawood's most trusted lieutenants, after he and Abdul Wahab shot dead David Pardesi.

Dawood Makes His Crores

Insiders informed that Dawood Ibrahim would call up a builder or a businessman once he was tipped-off about his project. The crafty gangster would then boast of his connections with policemen and politician. Next was a veiled threat of what the target would stand to loose if he did not accept Dawood Ibrahim as a partner.

"In most cases 30 percent partnership was offered as goodwill," informed an insider.

It was not long before the victim received another call that the partnership money should be paid immediately. An associate was deputed to collect the booty even before the project took off.

The amount could be in several crores, a huge price to have Dawood Ibrahim as a partner. In some cases, the businessman was bumped off after receiving the money and the project was taken over by a White Collar' front.

Delhi (Dubai)

Dubai is also known as Delhi among members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang. This term is used to confuse rival gangsters and keep off police traps.

Desh Bhakti

Members of the Chhota Rajan gang, like their mentor Chhota Rajan, often rant about their great service to the nation. Most of them claim they were

being used by Indian central intelligence agencies.

Rival gangsters counter the professed *desh bhakti* to demand some extra luxury in jail. Or avoid being killed in encounters.

But the rantings may not be entirely without reasons. Rajan former aide, Vicky Malhotra and Farid Tanasha were active in New Delhi, West Bengal and Nepal and some of the tasks they performed had been assigned to them by government agencies before they were arrested by the Mumbai police and lodged at Arthur Road jail.

Dhoka

Godfather Karim Lala's underworld activities were also hit by the internecine gang rivalry between Sayed Batla and Dawood Ibrahim. Finally, the doyen and his friend Hyderbhai mediated to bring peace between the two factions.

Dawood's father Ibrahim Kaskar, was also included in the negotiations. The meeting was held on the terrace of Siddi Mohalla, in late 1983. Members of both gangs swore on the holy book not to fight each other.

An angry Balta left the terrace later but Dawood and his brothers just smiled.

After the meeting, Batla became lax about his personal security. Dawood was still wary about his former foe and kept a watch on his movements.

It was two days after the pact that Balta decided to cross the barrier of Mohammed Ali road and visit his sister Banu Appa, who lived on Peerkhan Street.

Soon, Dawood was tipped-off about his enemy. He got his men together to launch an attack on his former foe.

Batla had barely entered his sister's dingy apartment and started washing up before the lunch, when Dawood and his men struck. With soap still in his eyes, the athletically-built gangster was in no position to defend himself.

Dawood and his men repeatedly stabbed him with choppers and swords before fleeing from the spot. Batla was lucky to escape with a few missing fingers.

The attack virtually put an end to gang war in Dongri. Batla was crippled for life and often gestured with the two remaining fingers to indicate they were enough to kill Dawood. He died a miserable death on the streets of Mumbai in 2001.

Dawood was left with a clear field. Yet another rival was eliminated and it was not long before he crossed swords with Karim Lala, the man who brokered the pact with Batla.

Dhoor (Prey)

Dhoor is a prey who eventually ends up paying huge sums to gangsters in jail as protection money. A person linked to commercial offences or 'white collar' crimes is selected by gangs as a soft target.

Reading newspaper reports and discussing latest trends in crime is the most popular pastime of gangsters in jail.

The ring-leaders track the case of a potential prey with a fairly sound financial background. The gang soon has a rough idea of how long it would be before a marked accused is remanded to judicial custody. From his sources in jail the gangster gets more details on the *dhoor's* financial background.

Pressure tactics are used to coerce him to cough up protection money for his own safety in jail.

A mobile phone is thrust into his hand and he is asked to call up his relatives. The money is delivered at the gate and finds its way into the barracks.

There have been cases where undertrials leave the jail richer by a few lakhs. And the *dhoor* runs into deficit.

Diamond Gang

The diamond gang operated from Dadar and was also known as the Valgi-Palgi gang. It was headed by Dalip Ramji Boricha, who took over the reins from former leader Sitaram Dada in around 1972. It was not long before vegetable vendors and local businessmen began paying protection money to the goons.

There were several gambling dens around Dadar, Prabhadevi, Lalbaug and Girgaum which were easy targets for the gangs.

After small-time trader Amar Maruti Naik alias Amar Bagwalla joined the Valgi gangsters, they got more insistent with the club owners and matka operators.

By 1995, the gang was reinforced with members like Ramesh Bhogle, Harishchandra Mochi, Ashok Darekar and Dilip Prabhu.

The rival Golden Gang headed by Chandrakant Khopde alias Babya, struck first by killing Dilip Prabhu. The Diamond Gang was further reinforced with the inclusion of Dhasrat Rahane a dreaded gangster from Kranti Nagar near Prabhadevi.

The Golden Gang retaliated by murdering Ramesh Bhogle. The power equation fluctuated till the late 1970s.

The street battles proved to be a blessing in disguise for Amar Naik. With Khopde and Valgi so busy, he spread his network in South Mumbai and went on a *hafta* (periodic collection of protection money) gathering spree.

Diary Le Kar Ana

Diary also means money in underworld lingo. So when a gangster asks his associate to bring his diary it could actually mean bringing the booty along for the meeting.

Dilip Bhuwa (Bhuwa alias Dilip Kokak)

Target Hansraj Shah had barely sat down in a shop at Ghatkopar east, to make a telephone call, when he heard a familiar voice.

"Kya seth. Phas gaya na?" (You are trapped now), seconds before a bullet exploded into his skull as the businessman from Kanjur Marg in north Mumbai stumbled to the ground lifeless.

Bhuwa had the blinding quickness and killer instinct of a rattlesnake. He was virtually like a man possessed during shootouts.

Buwa and his buddy pal Yogesh Paradkar got into the waiting autorichshaw leaving Shah's police escort dead inside the shop.

Buwa was trailing Hansraj for more than three months before he could close in on him. Prior to the kill, he lay in waiting for three days in an autorickshaw.

Originally from Kanjur Marg, Bhuwa broke away from his former mentor Ashok Joshi to join hands with the Dawood Ibrahim gang. Chhota Rajan was then Dawood's trusted lieutenant.

He died with associate Maya Dolas in an encounter with Additional Commissioner of Police A A Khan's squad, at Lokandwala Complex, on November 11, 1991.

Dilip earned the nickname of Bhuwa because of his religious bent of mind. Standing close to 6 feet tall, he always wore a cowboy hat and ankle boots where he hid his knife. Dolas on the other hand was only 5 feet 6 inches tall.

Bhuwa spent most of his time near a fish market in Kanjur Village in north Mumbai. He would regularly give chocolates to kids and it is difficult to believe that he was such a dreaded gangster.

Dimaag Me Bhukar Chad Gaya (He Is Suffering From Brain

Fever)

A middle-level gangster is often heard saying *'Uska dimaag me bhukar chad gaya. Usko theek kar do".* This term is used when a target refuses to pay up. '*Bhukar ko theek kar do'* means pressurize the victim to pay the money.

'DK' Bhai (A Brand Name)

DK (Dilip Kulkarni) has been named in more than 125 cases of extortion and four cases of murder. In fact, a crime branch officer states, that from 1998, victims suddenly began receiving threats in DK Bhai's name. Driven by fear, the victims arrived at Dagdi Chawl to cough up the demands but not many actually saw the gangster. Kulkarni was promoted as a 'brand name' after top aides Sada Pawle alias Mama, Ganesh Bhosale alias Vakil and Santosh Adilkar alias Bandya were shot in separate police encounters. The gang was scouting for a name that would inspire terror and Kulkarni fitted the bill, as he was one of senior-most living member of Dagdi Chawl.

Police sources say that Kulkarni was shocked to hear that his name had become synonymous with fear.

Hailing from a middle-class Brahmin family residing near Dagdi Chawl, Kulkarni was introduced to the world of crime by Abhaji Shenti alias Mali, in around 1988. He gave up his job as an attendant in Oberoi Towers and joined the ranks of the Gawli gang. An old friend says Kulkarni was shy and hardworking before he began working for the underworld. He ran out of luck and was killed in an encounter on April 22, 2000.

'Do Bojey Ke Aadmi Hoon' (I am a petty businessman)

Even as an understudy, Dawood Ibrahim had something mysterious about him, his actions often reflected his ambitions. Dawood used to lift head loads or Boski textiles or *'boja'* as it was known in the late 1970s. A *boja* was around 200 meters and his job was to sell the cloth and retain the commission.

Mahesh Dolakia was then the main retailer of Boski. He operated from his premises near Alankar Cinema at Grant Road. Dawood and his older brother, Shabir, were among his clients. It was here that don Shashi Rasam spotted Dawood. He immediately warned Dolakia to ensure that this young lad does not cross the road that divides Alankar Cinema and Khetwadi area. "Keep him at your end of the footpath," Rasam warned Mahesh. "I can trust Shabir but not Dawood. He seems to be very treacherous." *"Nahin bhai. Main do bojey ka aadmi hoon* (No sir. I am a petty businessman who sells two rolls of Boski)," replied Dawood.

Though Dawood never crossed the road during Rasam's reign, Mahesh Dolakia paid a heavy price for not taking Rasam seriously—he was later killed by Dawood's henchmen.

Doosre Ghar Pe Aana (Call Me On The Other Line)

This is an expression used in the gangland to indicate either that the conversation is being overheard or that the phone line is tapped.

Do Tang Le Kar Ana

Do tang le kar ana means come to the spot on a motorcycle.

The 'do *tang'* theory gained importance after two-wheelers were brazenly used by underworld shooters in the mid-1990s, for escaping from the scene of crime.

The police formed the ubiquitous beat marshals to challenge hitmen escaping on two-wheelers. The motorcycle-borne policemen actually became a deterrent for the gangsters forcing them to change their methods.

Doctor

Doctor is a law enforcement officer on the payroll of the underworld. This term is used when a gangster wants his associate to seek help from an officer. *'Ja doctor ko mil* le' (go and see the doctor), actually means go and meet the officer and he will help you.

Drum (One Crore)

A 'drum' means one crore rupees in underworld circles. This word is mostly used by bookies while betting during cricket matches. Bookies in New Delhi and Mumbai used this term during dealings to keep off snoopy cops.

Dubai Killing

Tilak Nagar has been a hot bed of criminal activities and murders for decades. Dozens of murders were hatched in the once lower middle class enclave in Chembur, north Mumbai.

The plot surrounding the murder of Dawood Ibrahim's right—hand man Sharad Shetty alias Bada Idli, at India Club in Dubai, was reportedly masterminded in a small pub near Tilak Nagar, a little distance from rival Chhota Rajan's stronghold.

The initial blueprint was drawn when an Indian expatriate with business interests in Dubai was approached by Rajan's henchman in Chembur, in early 2001. Rajan is said to have paid the businessman around Rs. one crore for a membership of India Club. That would help the would-be killers closely study the movements of their field of action.

Rajan reportedly ordered his trusted lieutenant, Balu Dokre, who was in Nepal, to take charge of the operations. Dokre was joined by Mumbai-based shooter Atul Potedar. Four others hired by them were Amar Bahadur Bam, a Nepalese national, Manoj Kuckian, Rajput Karansingh, Narsingh and Smith Vasa Kulat Bunaban. They were offered Rs. 5 lakhs each for carrying out the killing, the police say.

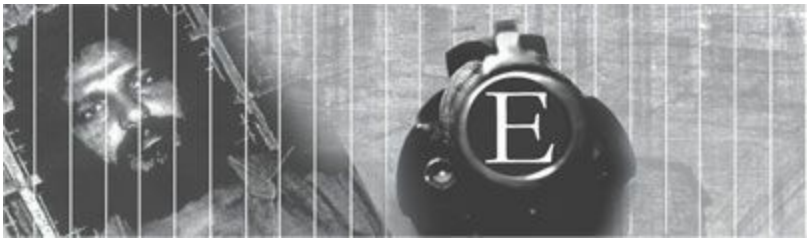
The four are said to have slipped into Dubai as professional seamen holding Liberian Continuous Discharge certificate (CDC), an equivalent of a passport, in the first week of January, on visitor visas.

On January 19, 2002, the three members of the killer squad were granted membership to the club. Generally, people on visitor visas are not admitted to the club. Kuchain and Narsingh were assigned the task of firing at the target. Around 8.30 pm, the two hit men took Shetty by surprise and fired five rounds from point-blank range. Bam was supposed to drive the getaway car, which was later found abandoned in a parking lot.

A crack team of the Dubai police managed to track down the killers and scooped on the trio as they were planning to board a ship to escape from UAE. The weapons used in the killing were later recovered from a garbage bin.

Dudh-Pav (Person Who Provides Food)

A gang sympathiser is sometimes known as *dudh*



Ek Number (Car)

'Ek *number'* means a car in underworld lingo. The origin: the game of *China Peti.*

Eleven Number Bus Route

Eleven number bus route actually means escape from the spot on foot. Eleven is abbreviation for the two legs.

Encounter Bachao (Deflecting Encounter Specialist's Bullets)

Gangster Chhota Rajan's key shooter Satish Tankappan Joseph had just been released from Mumbai's Arthur Road jail on bail, in 1996, when he became the prime suspect in the killing of an eyewitness in another case, Mohan Shinde, in Khar.

It was not long before the Khar police tracked Joseph down. Taken to the nearest police station for interrogation, members of the police squad escorting the suspect were stunned when he suddenly grabbed a handful of pins from the officer's desk and swallowed them. He was immediately rushed to the nearest hospital for treatment.

To a layman, Joseph's behaviour might seem rather extraordinary. But for the

gangster, the pins ensured that his life would not end in an 'encounter'. He must have sensed that the police squad was planning to eliminate him.

It is not only the gangsters. Pickpockets and petty thieves too, routinely slash themselves with blades or stab themselves to avoid being shot and killed in encounters. The reasoning-they know that all suspects will be medically examined if injured when taken into custody. If already dead, there will be a post mortem. Any previous injuries suffered immediately prior to the encounter with the police will raise questions.

Extra

Extras are the people who assist the main shooter in a killing. They run various errands from keeping watch to escaping with the weapon used in the shootout. An extra could also double up as the driver of the getaway car.

Fast De Raha Hain

Fast de raha hain means to avoid someone. Particularly, when a target is keeping off the gangsters and not paying protection money.

Farooq Batatawala (Mumbai Underworld's Encyclopedia)

Customs preventive officer Farooq Batatawala was a walking encyclopedia on the city's underworld. Dozens of vital tip-offs he gave the Crime Branch led to the cracking of the serial bomb blasts case, of 1993.

The Crime Branch's investigations were crawling, when Batatawala volunteered to help. Apart from the burly Batatawala, the Crime Branch also cultivated other informers. Hussein Vastara and Shafi Toofani formed a deadly trio who could provide the police data on almost everything related to the underworld and the smuggling syndicates operating in and around Mumbai.

Batatawala reportedly opened fire on A. Khan from close range on a busy street in Dongri, killing him instantly. The customs officer was absconding for two days before he surrendered. He was suspended from duty.

In jail, he met others accused in the serial blasts case; many arrested on his tip-offs. He went on to become a campaigner for them after his release. Batatawala met several senior politicians in the next few months, highlighting the plight of some of the accused. After one such meeting at Raj Bhavan on

May 1, 1998, Chhota Shakeel's key henchmen Sagir Sheikh and Arif Kalia killed Batatawala. The assailants took him by surprise on a bustling street corner in Bhendi Bazaar.

Fielding

Fielding is often the jargon used when the underworld plans a public killing.

On an average, between six and eight people are involved in the shootout. Operations are the result of intricate teamwork. Shooters are usually members of the core group who work well together.

The task is handed over to a group leader, for each gang will have several groups within it.

The watcher is the lowest in the hierarchy. His job is to collect petty information about the target, like his everyday habits, favoured visiting places, association with girlfriend(s) and court cases, if any. In some cases the information is provived by the enemy, at whose behest the killing takes place.

A backup team of three to four members often assist the shooter after the killing. Their task includes facilitating the getaway, providing safe house to go into hiding and finances.

Fighter

If you don't know how to handle the gun and still make do with well-aimed kicks, punches on the street, you are referred as a 'fighter'. That is, until you graduate to being a shooter, the next stop on the underworld ladder.

File Le Kar Ana

File le kar ana in the underworld lingo means reaching the scene of crime with a weapon. Initially, the police thought the file was related to settling a dispute and it contained vital documents. It took the crime branch sleuths weeks analyzing telephonic interceptions to decode the actual meaning.

Gaddari (Betrayal)

Mirza smuggled stolen cars from India to Nepal. Much of it was done with gangs owing allegiance to Om Prakash Shrivastava alias Babloo Shrivastava, a don based in Uttar Pradesh.

The police had recovered 20 kilograms of RDX from Baig's hideout on May 16, 1996. Earlier, the border police confiscated seven AK 47 assault rifles from Baig's car when he was crossing over from Mahendraganj in Nepal to Krishnanagar, on the Indian side.

In October 1998, Chhota Rajan was offered a contract to eliminate Baig, reportedly at the behest of some influential officers of the Indian intelligence.

Lieutenant O.P. Singh was shocked when Rajan alias Nana conveyed the message over his mobile phone. "*Party se mil lo"* said Rajan.

"Bhaiyeh to gaddari hogi na? (won't this amount to treachery?)," reasoned Singh, after a long pause.

Rajan led OP into believing that the killing could bring members of his gang close to some very senior officers of the Indian intelligence. This could also mean concessions for associates involved in very serious offences across the country.

OP was assigned the task to convince Babloo Shrivastava to allow few shooters from Mumbai to use his network in Nepal. Particularly, they wanted access to inside information on Baig.

Tall and well-built OP met Babloo Shrivastava in Naini Jail, near Allahabad. He was assured that some officials would go soft in his case relating to the murder of Additional Collector of Customs L D Arora at Allahabad on March 23, 1993.

Babloo's initial reaction was negative. "It will amount to betrayal," he told OP.

It was a tough decision for Babloo. Baig was his mentor and he had grown under his tutelage.

However, Babloo gave in and the plot was soon executed. His role was limited to providing logistic support to Rajan's shooters.

Gaadi (Train)

Sodomy Inside The Jail

Jails are congested and inmates do not even have enough space to sleep on their backs. People mostly sleep on their sides. This is the time when most of the homosexual inmates get into the act.

When inmates sleep close to each other and homosexuals among them have sex, the entire formation resembles a train hence the term *'gaadi'*

Gadiyal (Clock)

A time bomb is also known as *'gadiyal'* in the underworld. The name is derived from the fact that both are linked to time.

Gaon (Village)

Gaon means Dubai in underworld lingo. This word is used to keep off

snoopy cops.

Gandha (Bad)

Gandha refers to a policeman in underworld parlance.

Gandibapu

Gandibapu is money paid for a job done in the underworld. Ganglords always ensure that a foot soldier is only paid 40 percent of the amount promised to him for a job. This, an insider says, is done so that the hireling remains dependent on the boss. This also ensures that the gangster does not leave the gang. The hireling waits to recover his money but it never comes. Generally, he will handle more jobs and the withheld amount will keep growing. If the hireling is arrested, the gangster keeps the money. Sometimes the money is used to hire lawyers to defend the foot soldier in the court.

Garigapatti (The Mastermind)

Shyamkishore Garigapatti alias Kaniya, forged his own bail documents before escaping form the Kalyan jail in early 2003.

"Reading a Hadley Chase in a few hours and brewing a similar plot from his prison cell within minutes was Garigapatti's forte," a Crime Branch officer pointed out.

The Crime Branch got a taste of Garigapatti's devious methods while tracking Rafiq Dabbawalla. The tiffin boy, at the behest of his mentor, would make threatening calls claiming he was Ali Budesh. The calls were made from Ghatkopar and routed through a private exchange in a Gulf country.

Garigapatti used a similar ploy to extract money from a leading sari manufacturer based in Surat.

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty's father Surendra Shetty was named in the case. Son of a retired Indian Revenue Service officer, Garigapatti never fired a single shot in his life. This, despite the fact that he was considered to be very close to the dreaded gangster Subhash Singh Thakur, in the mid-1980s.

Despite this, he was beyond some of the bloodiest shootouts in the city. The firing at JJ Hospital in 1992, is a glaring case in point.

A graduate from a local college in Ghatkopar, Garigapatti joined hands with Thakur to neutralize a threat from neighbour Rafiq Khan. The latter was later named in the serial bomb blasts that rocked the city in 1993.

The lanky mastermind spent more than ten years in prison. Crime thrillers and women in pink saris or dresses were his weaknesses. It is not surprising that he maintained relationships with several women from his prisons cell over his mobile phone.

Ghatla Village

This lower income enclave in Chembur east, had become a fiefdom of Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan and later Chhota Rajan, in the early 1980s, especially after Sadhu Shetty joined hands with the Tilak Nagar gangsters. Pandya Chavan was yet another recruit from the colony. The warrens and narrow lanes provided a safe haven for the gangsters. Peace returned to the quaint village after dozens of gangsters were eliminated between 1997 and 2001.

Ghoda (The Gun Gave Him Away)

During his routine patrol rounds, a police officer spotted a well-built youth riding his motorcycle in an erratic fashion. Something about the man made the deputy commissioner of police suspicious.

Going by his instincts, the officer intercepted the man and began questioning him. He was then taken to Dadar police station. At the station, the youth

requested that he be allowed to answer nature's call. Though suspicious, the investigating officer gave him permission.

The officer did not know that the man he was questioning was dreaded gangster Sanjay Vasant Nehar alias Sanjay Ruggad; He was also unaware that Ruggad had hidden an imported pistol in his underwear. Ruggad just needed an excuse to get rid of his *ghoda* or gun.

The pistol however, fell with a thud. Ruggad's attempts at trying to hide it failed and he was caught red-handed. Later, the Chhota Rajan aide confessed to his involvement in four murders in the city. Since then, city gangsters have learnt their lessons.

Shooters rarely carry a *ghoda* before or after a killing. Over the years, gang leaders have ensured that their shooters are never caught with arms. Not only does this strategy ensure that there is no evidence to nail the shooters, it also helps to save costly firearms for future operations. How do gangs ensure this? The weapons are delivered by an unsuspecting friend or a neighbour. Another team is assigned the task of receiving the weapon from the main shooter. The third team, then, transports the arms to a 'Strong room'.

"Various relay teams could be working in tandem to ensure that the *ghodas* are not recovered by the police," admits a crime branch officer. Sometimes, the *ghoda* changes hands in a nearby public toilet, not far from the spot of killing.

Ginti (Count)

The doors of jail barracks are unlocked with *ginti* or head count at dawn. One more head count is followed before the main door is locked for the night.

'Goa Ka Tony'

Anthony Rosario, or 'Goa ka Tony as he was known in Goa, led a mysterious life. Till date, the police is unaware about his secret network, which had

multiple layers of contacts. Not much is known about his personal life either. His family and friends knew very little about his underworld operations ever since he left his village in Karkala near Mangalore, in the early 1970s. He was believed to be operating on his own, something rare in Mumbai's underworld.

Rosario came in the limelight in 1986, after he opened fire on former deputy municipal commissioner G.R.IKhairnar. The gunning down of MLA Vasant Asnotikar, from Karvar district in Karnataka, followed this.

The killing was carried out at the behest of drug trafficker Dilip Naik, who was later arrested by the local police.

Rosario is believed to have killed a priest and abducted factory workers for ransom. He was even named in a few murders in Gujarat and Goa.

Rosario's early records indicate that he was associated with Vardharajan Mudlair alias Vardhabhai and slain gangster Rupa Nepali. He was killed in an encounter August 18, 2003.

Godi (Docks) -Genesis Of Mumbai's Crime

In the early 1970s, when Indian economy was still ruled by the license raj, the cargo traffic in the Bombay Port was just taking off. There was not enough work for a few thousand workers at the docks.

Unknown to the port workers though, a motley group of smugglers became active in those days. After the workers had returned home and the docks were deserted, these small-time smugglers jumped over the wall and broke into petty consignments, beginning with small parcels and slowly got more ambitious. Soon, they were looting cartons and later, entire containers.

Because jumping over the walls was a little difficult for the lazy gangsters and also a bit unsophisticated, they opted for an easier way out—to pay the port authorities, police and customs for their connivance.

One such group was headed by Haji Mastan and his trusted lieutenant Paul Patrick Newman, who later joined hands with Arun Gawli.

With these activities across the wall, Mumbai's underworld was quietly being nurtured around the Godi.

Mastan's men operated from Crescent House, off the docks. The cluster of building in the area became an ideal spot for handling stolen goods.

Increase in tonnage in the port's operation saw adequate underworld recruitment alongside. Small-time thieves and local hooligans soon joined Mastan's team, almost gaining a free run in the 720-odd hectare of Godi.

By the early 1980s, tonnage in the port shot up to more than 17,000 dead weight tonnes per annum. Correspondingly, the volume of pilferage also rose and truckloads of contraband were being delivered across the Carnac Bunder bridge, to the flourishing shops in Musafirkhana and nearby Manish Market.

The smuggled goods mostly comprised of beer cans, textiles, tape recorders, cigarettes, perfumes and automatic watches. Huge consignments could be easily traced to Musafirkhana, some shops in Heera Panna and scores of customs notified shops across the city.

The parallel economy flourishing from the clandestine activity in the docks saw the once sleepy business district of Ballad Pier in South Mumbai, morph into an area where hotels did brisk business and night life bloomed.

Sensing an opportunity, a pathan from North West Frontier Province, Karim Lala, threw in his hat in the ring. Lala was just beginning to make his fortune as a dealer in narcotics using his network of fellow Afghans in the city.

Soon, Lala emerged as a strong competitor for Hajibhai. After the duo divided the businesses, Lala was joined by Iqbal Mohammed Memon alias Iqbal Mirchi.

There was huge money in drugs smuggling then and Dawood Ibrahim and his elder brother Shabir, affiliated to Haji Mastan, attempted to make inroads. But Lala was a strong adversary with the backing of Amirzada and Alamzeb. Dawood was forced to seek help from the 'Byculla Company' headed by the Rama Naik and Babu Reshim duo.

Dharavi-based Tamil don Vardarajan Mudaliar alias Vardhabhai and his henchmen also flexed their muscles for a slice in the profits from the docks. Manohar Surve alias Manya Surve, one of the first armed dacoit in Mumbai, was a little late in joining the fray.

Varhabhai knew he could not handle the threat from the biggies in the business, Karim Lala and Hajibhai, so he sought the assistance of Tilak Nagar-based Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan to protect his territories and neutralize threats from rivals like Lala and Hajibhai. While the Pathan gang was beefed up with the entry of Samad Khan, Reshim was made the leader of the docks.

By the mid-1980s, smugglers found safe landing sites in the mudflats Sewri-Wadala, Worli, Mahim and Vikhroli. Some of the contrabands were loaded onto small boats and smuggled to distant jetties like Versova, Gorai and even Ratnagiri.

Some of the smugglers even developed ingenious methods, creating cavities in their vehicles and hiring local gangs to provide them protection. Late comers like Chhota Rajan and Amar Naik fought for their share of this business starting in the 80s. But the action was gradually shifting from the Godi.

Many were killed in encounters with the police. The underworld was still getting its cuts from the docks.

Golden Gang

The 'Golden Gang'—all its members wore gold ornaments-was headed by Chandrakant Khopde alias Babya between 1966-1990. They were the arch rivals of the Valgi-Palgi gang or the Diamond gang.

The gang raked in the moolah from gambling dens around Dadar, Prabhadevi, Girgaum and Lalbaug—the erstwhile mill area of Mumbai also known as Girangaon.

Babya had stakes in some illegal betting dens and in the late 1970s his income was estimated to be around Rs 25 lakh a month-an unheard of sum at that time.

The gang operated from the Sun Mill compound in Lower Parel. Mill owners hired them to settle industrial disputes and pressurize labour unions to accept the terms of the employers.

Goodman

Goodman is an informer in underworld lingo. It is a warning to other associates not to speak openly before a person, whom they suspect is a police informer. Zero also means informer in the underworld lingo. When a gangster praises someone as 'goodman' he touches his thumb with the index finger to make it look like zero. This is a clear warning to 'shut up'.

Goood (Homosexual)

Sodomy is rampant among members of the underworld. The behaviour can be traced to their stints in jails.

Prisoners have to sleep in awkward positions, making them susceptible to sexual overtures. Many succumb to the seniors or gang leaders in exchange of small luxuries like food and assurances of a job on release from jail.

Gufran Farooki

Gufran Farooki circulated counterfeit notes worth Rs 20 crore in India at the behest of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and Pakistan's Inter service Intelligence, police records indicate..

It was in Dubai that he met Aftab Batki alias Sultan, Dawood Ibrahim's key

associate based in Dubai. According to police sources. Batki is one of the main players in the fake currency racket run in connivance with the ISI.

Gupti

Gangster Suhas Bhatkar alias Potya was attending a marriage at Dadar when a drunk youth claimed he was the *'bhai'* of the area. Potya's associates could barely manage to restrain themselves from teaching this man a lesson.

However, matters came to the head when the man walked up the gangster and asked whether he had seen Potya. The answer was negative.

Potya swiftly whipped his *gupti* and stabbed him on his tight."I am Potya," he whispered before disappearing from the spot.

Potya was considered a master in wielding the *gupti* (straight sword) to spread terror in the Western suburbs of Mumbai.

A student of Sharda Ashram School at Shivaji Park, where cricketer Sachin Teldulkar studied, Potya spent most of his time near Kirti College at Prabhadevi, a little distance from his house in Yadav Patil Wadi.

Potya's initiation to crime is attributed to the erstwhile local goon John Mendonca. Saiba Talekar, Nitin Pusalkar and Uday Todankar were some of his contemporaries, informed Assistant Police Inspector Rajendra Chavan, who was posted in the area.

Potya and his men mostly looted *matka* dens. Protection money from social clubs and illicit liquor dens was the other source of income in the early 1980s.

It was not long before Potya crossed swords with Manya Surve over sharing haftas from businessmen in Dadar and Prabhadevi areas. The dreaded gangster soon shifted his base to Khotwadi near Vile Parle before he was killed in an encounter by sub inspector E Amolik.

Guesthouse (For Few; Jail For Many)

Arthur Road jail in Mumbai, is commonly known as 'Guest-house' among members of the Chhota Rajan gang. Many influential inmates live in luxury in the jail.

It is not uncommon for guards getting caught while smuggling a mobile phone to an inmate. Cellphones are smuggled in for pay-off of anything above Rs 10,000.

At times, gangsters have two phones with dozens of SIM cards; one for the girlfriend and family, the other to talk to associates.

Haath (Arm)

'Ek haath' means Rs 1,000. The word is used to mislead people who do not belong to gangs and do not understand their language.

Haath Pe Aa Ja (Call Me On My Mobile Phone)

If a gangster suspects that the landline is tapped, he asks his associate to call him on his mobile phone or another number. It is also a warning not to call on the same number again.

Haddi

Haddi or bone is a term that gets attached to the first names of lean gangsters. Salim Haddi and Paulos Haddi are examples.

Harish Jatan

Chhota Rajan once hired Harish Jatan, to storm rival gangster Chhota Shakeel's hideout at Bhayander. Jatan and his men dressed as police officials barged into the hideout. He was well versed in law and often advised fellow inmates during his stint in the jail.

Hawala (Parallel Money Remittance)

In Hindi *'hawala'* means handing over. It is an illegal and informal route of money transfer across borders. It moves money anywhere in the world in a matter of hours without any record of transaction. It began as a channel of choice for Indian workers in Dubai and was later exploited by Dawood Ibrahim and other gangsters to transfer money from the country and back. Particularly, money from large drug deals across the globe. Its success is attributed to fast, cheap and reliable service.

Buying a US dollar at a low premium and selling to a person in need in an overseas destination at a much higher price brings in profit for the operators.

According to crime branch sources in Mumbai, some of the big operators in Dubai have been identified as Saukar Mohideen, Abdulla alias Kasargod, Shamshiddin.

Head Shot

Samad Khan's war with Hamid-Majid brother reached dangerous proportions when he hired his former employee Munna Thakur to gun down Majid.

Majid was shot dead outside Bucchuwala Building on Navroji Lane number 1, in Dongri.

Hamid struck by attacking Samad's friend Sohail on Sankli Street near Agripada. This was to avenge the death of his younger brother Majid.

Hamid himself was taken by surprise when hirelings Dawood Shamsher and Munna Thakur surprised him by closing in from behind. The 'head shot' pierced the skull and exploded from his forehead.

The duo riddled Hamid's body with 11 more gunshots from close range. He was at Fun-n-Food bar and committed the mistake of not facing the entrance.

Dawood Shamsher had a free run after Hamid's killing. He diversified into

'powder' or drugs and operated from his strong-room in Pala Gulli in Dongri.

Hemant Pujari

Hemant Pujari is a former member of the Chhota Rajan gang and is one of the few gangsters struggling to carve a niche for himself in Mumbai's underworld. A resident of Jawahar Nagar in Khar (east), Pujari first started working for Kalia Anthony in the mid-1980s. After a series of petty offences he was involved in the murder of Anthony Joachim alias Addu. During his stint in the jail, he came in touch with O P Singh who induced him to join the Chhota Rajan gang. This was quickly followed with a series of murders, including that of M. Khan of M K Builders, at Bandra west.. Pujari formed a deadly combination with Kundan Singh Rawat and Ejaz Lakdawala before breaking away from Chhota Rajan. Pujari started as a small-time waiter in a bar at Khar and it is not surprising that some of his sympathisers are hoteliers. Intelligence reports have indicated his joining hands with Chhota Shakeel. He is named in over half a dozen murders.

Home Ground

Gangster Amar Naik made it to the top on the hit list of 'Byculla Company' after he shot and killed Arun Gawli's key shooter Tanya Koli at Kalyan station. Koli was being escorted to Amravati Jail.

Since Amar was proving too elusive for Gawli and his men, rival Byculla Company decided to target his younger brother Ashwin. Ashwin was facing trial under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987.

There was no better place to target him than the 'home ground' or the courtroom.

Gawli's second in command Sada Pawle alias Mama, was assigned the task of eliminating Ashwin. He in turn, trained Ravindra Sawant and sent him off to get the prized target.

On April18, 1994, Sawant gained entry to the Sessions Court, posing as an advocate. Nagesh Mohite was hired to assist the main shooter.

Sawant's training paid off. He caught Ashwin and his police escorts unaware and pumped a bullet into his skull from close range.

However, though Ashwin survived the attack, it disabled him for the rest of his life.

This is not a stray case, Underworld gangs have been using court premises or 'home grounds' as referred in the underworld to spring surprises on their adversaries for decades.

Hyala Ghyacha (We Must Get Him)

It was June 15, 1970. A group of teenagers met secretly amidst the ruins of an ancient Maratha outpost, atop a hillock at Sion.

The task was to terminate Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Krishna Desai. This Communist Party of India worker, wielded great power in the Marathi speaking areas of Lalbaug and Parel, in Central Mumbai.

The teenagers were too naive to understand who had accepted the *supari* or contract to kill Desai and did not even have the slightest hint about the motive behind the murder. They were too high on the idea of forming a party to fight for the rights of the 'Marathi manoos', recalled Vishwanath Katade, one of the assailants.

"It was a rainy day. I was barely 17 just like the other members of the group," remembers Katade, who was later known as 'buwa' in political and underworld circles. The group dispersed after a brief meeting at Sion Fort. Their lean bodies belied their sinister intentions.

An hour later, they were already at Lalbaug. It was dark and the group surveyed Desai's security arrangements. He did not have any bodyguards.

Desai was busy training around 70 members in a crowded gymnasium. He

himself was working out and looked deadly for his age, Katade recollects.

Suddenly, the lights in the gymnasium went off. There was chaos.

The killers gained entry into the gymnasium under the cover of darkness and were closing in on Desai. "It wasn't difficult to spot the target because of his massive build," remembers Katade.

The group went on a stabbing spree. Knives ripped apart the victim's stomach and left multiple wounds in his chest.

Desai started swaying. He covered his wounds with his large hands trying to prevent blood from spurting out.

Minutes later, Desai collapsed and with him, the communist bastion in Lalbaug.

Desai was not the only target that night. The group assembled again later, to attack another communist in Sewri.

Crime branch sleuths investigating the case stumbled upon one of the killers, Chandu Master. All the others were later identified.

Katade was a Shiv Sena fanatic. He even attacked jailer Manzar Amani when the latter asked him whether Sena chief Bal Thackeray was teaching him to be tough. "Balasaheb bolo (address him as Balasaheb)," Katade warned Amani after assaulting him.

Shiv Sena candidate Wamanrao Mahadik was soon elected to the state legislative assembly from the mill belts of Parel and Lalbaug. His party attracted young blood by the thousands.

Indian Bat

Indian bat is understood by Dawood Ibrahim's men to mean country-made revolver. So when a lieutenant is heard saying *Indian bat bhej raha hoon'* It actually means a cheap weapon for an apprentice killer.

Iqbal Natiq

Iqbal Natiq's murder, which led to a rift between Dawood Ibrahim and the Pathan gang headed by Amirzada and Alamzeb, marked the beginning of gang wars in South Mumbai.

Natiq, who worked as a journalist, had exposed the oil mafia in South Mumbai. Dawood and his associates stood up for their slain friend. This created a chasm between the two groups.

Petty clashes soon snowballed into the murder of Dawood's elder brother Shabir. It led to large-scale killings between the two gangs.

Item (Sexy Damsel)

Meenakshi Sharma, a 22-year-old, came from Bhopal to Mumbai with just one dream —to enter Bollywood. Failing there, the underworld beckoned her, giving her a chance to capitalize on her good looks. Sharma hailed from a

well-to-do family and her father was a government official in Bhopal.

She was not only good in studies, but also excelled in sports and other extra-curricular activities during her college days, police learnt during one of the interrogations.

Sharma first came in contact with Babloo Shrivastava in 1995. Within two years of meeting him, she became one of his sweethearts and started supervising his operations.

Her association with Babloo's henchmen Vikram Wahi and Sanjay Khanna helped her to develop the ruthless guile and skill that is still capable of putting some of the most dreaded criminals to shame.

Sharma's area of operation expanded and she started making frequents trips to Dubai and Singapore.

It was during one of these trips that Meenaskshi got close to Irfan Goga, a close associate of Gama Pehalwan. She is also wanted by the Mumbai police in connection with an extortion case.

Jai Hind

Jai Hind is generally the word used when gangsters from the Chhota Rajan gang meet each other.

April 29, 2001 was the last day of Chhota Rajan shooter Mohammed Shafi Mulla alias Baba's life. "*Jai Hind*' muttered the gangster as a salvo of police bullets pierced his body on the lonely night at Bhandup.

Mulla was hired by Chhota Rajan to get at underworld don Dawood Ibrahim in Pakistan. It was a secret mission, but the rival got the wind of the plot.

Robust and sporting a long beard, Mulla had managed to obtain a Pakistani visa and was planning to fly across the border on the following day via Dubai. But the mission was aborted.

Mulla was wanted in connection with six murders in Mumbai and Thane district.

Not many attended Baba's funeral. There wasn't enough money for an elaborate ceremony — a phenomenon all too common in Mumbai's underworld.

Senior Mulla's younger brother Qasim Amin Mulla alias Munna had followed his brother into the underworld. The brothers' passion for kickboxing made them quite famous in their native village in Uran. It was not long before the passion led to a vocation-Mumbai's underworld.

Baba's death jolted Munna to the realities of life as a gangster. After his release from jail in 2001, he left the company.

JJ Shootout

On September 12, 1992, Dawood Ibrahim's aides Subash Singh Thakur and Sunil Sawant armed with AK 47 s and Uzi assault rifles opened fire in ward number 18, the prisoners' ward, at JJ Hospital, Byculla. The duo sprayed 38 bullets in ten minutes.

Constable Krishna Thakur was injured and Arun Gawli's close aide Shailesh Haldankar was killed in the attack. His associate Bipin Shere was seriously injured. Head constables Chintaman Jasver (badge no 18005) and Kamalsingh Banawat (badge no 22709) were also killed in the shootout. Police sub- inspector Vijay Nagre, staff nurse Chandrakala Vindre were injured in the shootout.

Jhadu (Broom)

Jhadu is a term often used for assault rifles like the AK 47, AK 56 series. The rapid firing capabilities of the Kalashnikov gave rise to the alias. You can also sweep it around 180 degrees and continue firing.

The police version says that the Anti Terrorist Squad had cordoned off the main road leading to Swati Building in Lokhandwala Complex in Andheri, on November 11, 1991. Their prime targets were gangsters Maya Dolas and his key associate Dilip Bhuwa.

Dolas and his associates were not aware than about 200-odd armed policemen had trooped into the area for the flushing out operation. The gunshots started ringing around 2 pm.

The first round of shots went off when the squad tried to enter the building. Dolas had fired from his. *.45* Magnum revolver and the bullet pierced sub-inspector Gharat's shoulder. Kavi was lucky to escape because of the

bulletproof vest.

The gunfire on Kavi was quickly followed with a chatter of automatic weapon fire. Bhuwa was wielding his Jhadu or AK 47 as he hopped up the flight of stair, recalled sub-inspector Kiran Sonane.

This was quickly followed with another bust of rounds from Dolas' revolver. The gangsters and the police were using their automatic weapons that eliminated seven men in the exchange of fire.

John Paulos (Haddi/Bone)

Paulos began his criminal career as a petty thief in the back alleyways of Saki Naka around 1995. He soon graduated to a marksman in Mumbai's underworld.

He was one of the key shooters in the murder of Ulhasnagar corporator Gopal Rajwani, who was shot near a local court in 1998. Faruk Laadi and Ashraf Patel are a few of his other targets.

Paulos alias Haddi alias Anna was inducted in the Chhota Rajan gang by lieutenant D K Rao after he was arrested in connection with a robbery in Saki Naka, in 1996. He was armed by Balu Dokre and began working as a shooter.

Lanky Paulos rose up the gangland ladder-thanks to both his dare-devilry and his close association with Dokre. Paulos was even made 'handler' of Arthur Road jail in the absence of Dokre. He is also accused of firing at jailer A. Awtade in 2003.

Paulos broke away from Chhota Rajan gang the following year to form his own gang of robbers. He was killed in an encounter in 2004.

Jukkar (Naresh Awatu)

Naresh Awatu alias Jukkar, was Chhota Rajan's trusted lieutenant. His

encounter death led to the break-up of Dawood Ibrahim's empire. It also resulted in a spate of gangland killings in the underworld.

February 1, 1991. Former police officer Dasrath Awadh received a tip-off that Awatu was likely to visit Bhandup. Later, Awatu was shot dead in an encounter a little distance away from Bhandup police station.

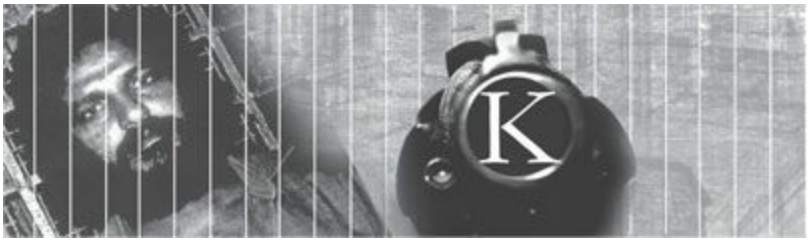
Awatu along with his elder brother Amar, Diwakar Churi and Sanjay Ruggad formed Rajan's core group.

It was known that the area where Awatu was killed was 'controlled' by Khim Bahadur Thapa, also a Shiv Sena corporator.

Rajan, who was then second-in-command to Dawood, was told that Thapa had informed the police about Awatu's whereabouts. He swore to avenge Awatu's death.

Shortly, Rajan formed an alliance with Avdhoot Bonde and Vilas Mane - local goons who had crossed swords with Thapa.

Thapa's movements were monitored closely. Rajan associates cornered him near Mangatram petrol pump in Bhandup and killed him.



Kaan (Currency Within The Jail)

Ek kaan ka sau rupaiya, aadha kaan ka pachas rupaiya'.

In prison, *ek kaan* or one ear means Rs 100 and *aadha kaan* (half a ear) is Rs 50. *Paanch kaan* (five ears) is Rs 500. These terms are generally used when a new undertrial is escorted to jail.

Kala Coat

Kala coat means a lawyer in underworld lingo. The term is coined from the black coat worn by the lawyer while arguing in Court.

Kali (Black)

'Kali' is another name for *hashish* or *charas* in the underworld. *Kashmiri Kali* is valued around Rs 40,000 on the streets of Mumbai.

Kalia Anthony

Kalia Anthony, born Anthony Veeraswamy John, was a gangster from Khar. He later joined hands with the rival Pathan faction in south Mumbai.

The name Kalia stuck because he escaped from jail on the day Bollywood blockbuster and Amitabh Bachchan's film 'Kalia' was released. He started as a small-time thief and was assisted by able lieutenants like Subash Singh Thakur, Baba Gabriel and Bacchi Pandey.

Anthony was shot dead outside a court in broad daylight on May 24, 1986. The underworld still suspects that the killing was Dawood's handwork.

Kalakar (The Actor)

Kalakar is also a shooter in Mumbai's underworld. Before the law caught up with gangster Chhota Rajan's key hitman Kamlesh Satam, nobody in the neighbourhood ever suspected that the courteous youth could be among the most dreaded contract killers of Mumbai's underworld.

Satam's modus operandi would have challenged the imagination of even the best scriptwriters in the country. In fact, not even his family members were aware that Kamlesh was linked to a gang. As fluent in English as in local languages, he could easily fit the description of a medical representative.lt was only when he used the gun that an entire different persona came to the fore.

Satam and another man, Yunus Butla, were the main shooters in the murder of Chembur-based hotelier Vinod Shetty and three others near Panvel in late 2000.

Police sources informed he would behave perfectly normal after a killing. Moreover, he would never try to use muscle-power unnecessarily, nor would he ever boast of his contacts. Sometimes he even spoke to the target.

While Satam did most of the killing in 2000, the underworld blamed big-time shooters for the jobs. It was a ploy to conceal the identity of the actual assassin and mislead the police.

Nobody ever suspected him because he was educated and hailed from a respectable family. His sister was a doctor.

Around 1990, when Satam parted ways with a girlfriend in Ismail Yusuf College in Jogeshwari, he crossed swords with Owen D'Souza, a college toughie. Satam soon had to seek protection from Suhas Naik, a member of the Ashwin Naik gang.

The stocky youth was named in some assault cases and landed in jail. It was during these cases that Satam met Chhota Rajan's trusted lieutenant D K Rao, who saw potential in the youth. He found a trusted accomplice in Yunus Batla and later joined hands with Balu Dokre, a Rajan aide.

Satam and Butla were killed in an encounter by police officers Avinash Sawant and Bhushan Belnekar on July 9, 2001.

Kalia Ko Nikalo (Eliminate Abdul Kunju)

The dark-skinned Abdul Kunju alias Kalia, was a key member of the Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan's Tilak Nagar gang. Rajan was in jail and demanded rupees one lakh from Dawood Ibrahim. Dawood had offered Rajan the contract to kill Amirzada and it was mandatory for him to pay the money. He was also liable to pay for legal assistance required during Rajan's long detention in jail. "When Rajan's henchmen approach Dawood for the money they were told that he had already paid the sum to Abdul Kunju and would not make another payment," recalled Nandu Rajulkar, a former associate of the Rajan Nair gang.

Kunju met Rajan during a subsequent *mulakat* (meeting) at Arthur Road jail but refused to repay the amount to the gang. Kunju claimed he had used the money and argued that there was nothing wrong with that.

"*Kalia ko nikalo* (get rid of Kunju)," a furious Rajan later told other gang members.

The tall, dark and massive Kunju was known for his skillful use of the chopper, a weapon considered lethal in the 1970s. He was a terror in Chembur's Shell Colony after he was named in three murders in a single day.

Kunju not only refused to the repay the one lakh rupees but also hatched a plot to kill Rajan. He trained autorickshaw driver Chandrashekar Safalika to use firearms on a remote hill in Vikhroli.

Safalika managed to take Rajan by surprise outside Esplanade Court on September, 15, 1983. Rajan was killed barely a fortnight after his henchman killed arch rival Amirzada inside the Sessions Court in South Mumbai.

Kunju, meanwhile, had joined hands with Philip Phandare alias Anna and Yeshwant Jadhav of Ghatkopar. Domnic, Dilip Bhise and Ramesh Pujari also joined Kunju's gang sending the Tilak Nagar gang running for cover.

Most of Rajan's associates, including protege Chhota Rajan, escaped from Tilak Nagar to avoid any direct confrontation with Kunju and his men.

Kanpur

Kanpur is a secret word for Karachi. If a gangster says *'Kanpur baat hui thi'* (I spoke to someone in Kanpur). It actually means I spoke to a member of the D-Company in Karachi.

Kanjaris

Vikram Parmar alias Mohammed Kanjari and his wife Fatima, continue to remain loyal to Dawood Ibrahim and his right hand man Chhota Shakeel, over the years.

The police have named them in a recent plot in 2001, to kill Gujarat's Law Minister Ashok Bhatt and Bharatiya Janata Party legislator, Bharat Barot.

Vikram Parmar grew under the tutelage of Vijay Uthkar alias Vijay Kanjari, until hotelier Shridhar Shetty was murdered at Byculla in May 1986. They lived in settlements not far from Dagdi Chawl and owed allegiance to Rama Naik, Babu Resham and later Arun Gawli of the Byculla Company, as it was

then known.

However, the tide turned when Jayanta Shetty, with the help of Sharad Shetty and Arvind Dholakia, managed to wean away ringleader Vijay Kanjari and his associates. Ravi and Kishore Kanjari fell in line and Vikram Kanjari was no exception. The Kanjaris later stormed the Jacob Circle police lock-up with automatic weapons and grenades, killing gangster Babu Reshim. Vikram had to flee Kanjarwada in Byculla and found sanctuary at Shakeel's stronghold around Temkar Mohalla.

Vikram soon got a new name, Mohammed Kanjari-thanks to Shakeel's 'evangelism' and his zeal for conversion. He continued to be called Kanjari as he belonged to the tribe, which had migrated from Gujarat.

Vikram found a trusted friend in Anwar Badshah during his detention in jail in mid-1995. Soon, friendship turned to kinship when Anwar's sister Fatima alias Paro, married Vikram in 1987.

Meanwhile, Vikram had joined hands with Sheikh Mohammed Hussain alias Hussain Vastara, a goon from Pydhonie. The alliance did not last long and Vikram soon returned to Shakeel's fold.

Vikram hit the headlines when he and Anwar Badshah's younger brother Ismail were named in the murder of Roopam Stores owner Bharat Shah, in 1997. This was quickly followed by the killing of Ajay Mishra, a builder, at Malad.

Karigar Kitne Hain

Karigar means skilled worker in Hindi. When a gangster asks *'karigar kitne hain* ?' he is actually inquiring how many shooters are available for the planned attack.

Kardar Garage

Guru Satam alias Guru Bhai is still a 'bogey man' in and around Parel. Nobody dares talk about him openly. The gunning down of rival gangster Suresh Manchekar in an encounter on August 15, 2003, turned the scales in his favour.

Earlier, Manchekar held sway over the 200-odd garages operating in an area in Parel that was once Kardar Studio.

Matka bettings and illegal gambling dens began paying him regular hafta.

All was well till Satam was confronted by the young Suresh Manchekar, who worked in one of the garages. The gangsters soon realized that the foolhardy youth was a potential threat and could come in the way of his collecting protection money from the garage owners, and Kardar Garage was one of his main sources of regular income. Owners coughed up between Rs 1000/-and Rs 1500/-every month, a tidy sum for the gang's coffers.

However, their association did not last long after Manchekar realized that Satam was not really sharing the booty with him. Thereafter, the two crossed swords over the collection of *hafia* from Kardar Garage.

The ageing Satam soon realized that he was on Manchekar's hit list and they both shifted base but not before they swore to kill each other.

Karim Lala (The Pathan Godfather)

Lala, as Pathan was popularly known, could have migrated from North West Frontier Province to Mumbai, a little before 1944, the year of the Great Dock Fire. But it took him about 18 years to acquire Indian citizenship.

The Pathans were then known to bring in drugs with them and Dongri-based Afghani, Jhuma Khan Ghaswalla, was one of the biggest players of the time..

Lala was introduced to the narcotic trade by Ghaswalla's son, Faruk, also a resident of Dongri.

Soon, he entered the big league with players like Haji Mastan, Yusuf Patel,

Vardharaj Mudaliar alias Vardhabhai, and Jenabai Khabri from Pydhonie.

Lala came under police scrutiny after the Emergency was declared, in 1975.

Later, he formed the Khudai Khidmatgar and Paktoonistan Jigra-e-Hind, organizations that provided succour and employment to Pathans.

But his problems started when Dawood Ibrahim crossed swords with the Pathans. The two gangs, once friends, operated from either side of Mohammed Ali Road. Lala was shattered when his fiery nephew Samad Khan was killed after being dragged into the gang war.

Katta (Country Made Revolver)

A majority of apprentice killers affiliated to various gangs in Mumbai use the 'katta'. This is to prevent expensive imported weapons from falling into the hands of the police.

Robbers too, use country made weapons often bought for as low as Rs 2,500 from small illegal arms dealers in the city.

Contract killers are provided with handguns before the assignment. These are usually returned after the job is complete. Weapons are provided and collected by middle-level organizers.

Kaum Ki Churan

Kaum ki churan implies professing secularism, in the underworld. Religion has the least significance among gangsters. A don often tries to impress the understudy into believing that he is secular and religion has no relevance in the gang.

Kauva (Crow)

''*Kauva* generally refers to a mobile phone in gangland talk. A mobile phone, like a crow, makes noise which led to the coining of the word.

Kayum Chacha

Dr. Mohammed Jalis Shaifullah Ansari, the man behind the 1993 blasts in Mumbai, was deported from Dubai in 2006 Ansari supplied a 9 mm caliber pistol to Abu Salem, which was handed over to Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt. Abdul Kayum Sheikh, alias Kayum Tailor, a key member, of the Dawood Ibrahim gang. From a small tailoring shop in Mahim to Sharjah, it has been a long journey for Kayum Chacha, one of the most sought after gangsters in the city.

Kitne Ki Lagi ? (For How Long Have You Been Remanded To Custody?)

Kitne ki Lagi or the sentence period, also determines the inmate's relationships with others inside the jail. A short-term prisoner usually ends up as a prey or *dhoor*.

Khalid Pehalwan

Khalid Pehalwan is one of the few men in Dubai who can still address Dawood Ibrahim by his name. He is a senior respected figure in the D-Company, though he operates independently.

Khalid Pehalwan's association with Dawood Ibrahim dates back to the late 1970s, when he was hired by the latter. It was a fashion in those days to hire wrestlers for personal protection.

Khalid Pehalwan had migrated from Bhopal and started working as a bodyguard for Bassu Maharaj, a strongman from Dongri. Dawood hired him a few months later. In fact, Khalid Pehalwan was guarding Pakmodia Street

the night Dawood's elder brother Shabir was murdered by the Pathans. The massive bodyguard recognized the vehicle often used by the Pathans and opened fire on them. Soon, the huge steel door of the building was shut, seconds before members of the Pathan gang could target Dawood.

Khalid Pehalwan had actually seen the rise of Dawood Ibrahim and followed him to Dubai. He started working on his own and branched into drug trafficking.

Story has it that Dawood Ibrahim's second-in-command Chhota Shakeel was once overpowered by Mehmood Kalia, at the Tardeo Airconditioned Market. Kalia, who was Khalid Pehalwan's understudy, wanted to stab Shakeel over a dispute. Mehmood Kalia fled from the spot when his mentor Khalid Pehalwan alias KP intervened.

Ageing Khalid Pehalwan still lives in Dubai. He was one of the suspects named in the murder of high-profile informer, Amjad Khan, near the Sessions Court in 2006.

Kishore Gulab Gawli

Arun Gawli's sibling Kishore, alias Papa, was killed at Mahim, on February 22,1990.

Posing as policemen, Gawli's goons picked up Kamati, the man who knew who Kishore's killers were, for 'interrogation'. Kamati revealed that one Manoj from Girgaum had tipped off the rival shooters.

A team under trusted lieutenants Vijay Tandel and Raja Jadhav was prepared to 'pick up' Manoj from his Central Mumbai residence.

A police deserter Prakash Joglekar was part of the squad to add a touch of authenticity to the proceedings. The squad swooped down on Manoj's residence in a white Ambassador. Since Joglekar still had his police identity card, convincing Manoj-the son of an advocate, was not difficult.

After a prolonged session of questioning, Manoj revealed all that he knew.

Arun Gawli realized that the crime had been carried out by ace shooters like Sunil Sawant, Anil Parab, Avdhoot Bhonde, Shirish Parab, Ashok Parab and Shrikant Desai alias Mama — targets beyond Gawli's reach.

Hours later, Manoj was found dead at Tardeo due to multiple bullet wounds.

Koli (Not A Real Fisherman)

Mangesh Koli had a way of changing his appearance that would put a chameleon to shame.

Koli would often shave his hair to appear bald. Within days he would pluck the hair from his eyebrows or change his moustache. At times, Koli would surface behind the veil of a *burkha*, or wield a revolver or chopper, leaving the victim stupefied.

Koli took extra pain to ensure that his makeup was just right and no tell-tale signs would give him away. Attention was paid to the minutest details including the right shade of lipstick, *bindis*, ladies footwear or nail polish, to change appearances, according to police sources.

According to police records, Koli was a hoodlum in the Colaba Market area before he was inducted into serious offenses. He later joined hands with underworld don Ashwin Naik, with whom he shared part of his booty.

On one occasion, he escaped from police custody at Esplanade Court in April 1999. Within hours, he looted a wine shop at Colaba.

Koli was a sadist and womanizer. He would often rape a victim in the presence of her husband at gunpoint, according to the police and not many women lodged complaints out of fear and the stigma attached to rape.

Koli was finally killed in an encounter on October 10,1999, by a squad led by Assistant Police Inspector Ravindra Angre.

Khabri (Informer)

It was around 1 pm on November 11, 1991. Additional Commissioner of Police AA Khan, heading the Anti Terrorist Squad had entered his office when the telephone rang.

After a little dilly-dallying the *khabri*, a small-time criminal in his late twenties, came to the point. He wasn't sure until he heard Khan at the other end of the line.

This was mainly because of his years of experience in dealing with the cops and evading arrests. He wasn't too sure which officer was on whose payroll. He dialed a number and only when he had confirmed that it was Khan at the other end, he uttered the following, "*Saab*. This is some information on Maya Dolas. He is holed up in Swati Building at Lokhandwala Complex for the past few days."

Khan had already attracted the attention of *khabris* in Mumbai. The daring operation in Baroda, in Gujarat, few months earlier had earned him a dreaded reputation.

The tip-off had sent Khan into a tizzy. His men were waiting for their next assignment after they eliminated Pakistan-trained Sikh militant, Baldev Singh in Baroda, on January 27, 1990.

The tip-off indicated that Dolas and few others had encroached into two apartments on Lokhandwala's Southern tip.

The ground floor of Swati Building was being used for extortion. Builders from the newly developed enclave were being summoned to pay up and even settle their internal disputes.

The area was considered safe. Large numbers of buildings were under construction and it was easy to prey on builders.

It had to be a fool-proof operation. Khan knew he might not get another chance to corner Dolas, who was no ordinary target.

Khota (Fake)

Underworld mein fake chalta hain (fake is the key to the underworld). Fat and stocky Shakeel Shaikh Ahmed started off as a small-time watchman at Chhota Shakeel's Shams Travel agency on Temkar Street, near JJ Hospital. He started attending telephone calls for the D-Company and that was when his talent for imitating the voice of Chhota Shakeel came to the fore. Thus was born Khota Shakeel or Fake Shakeel.

Khujli

Khujli is somebody who is not straight or a person with malicious intent.

Eczema is also known as *khujli.* Dawood Ibrahim's younger brother Iqbal in Arthur Road jail wanted medical attention for his skin disease during his detention between 2003 and 2007.

King Of The Seas (Haji Haji Ismail or Double)

Born in Jam Salayia near Kutch, Ismail was also known as the 'King of the Seas'. This was mainly because of his skill in smuggling drug consignments past law enforcement agencies.

The money from Mandrax or Button as it is known in drug circles, was channeled to hotels in Dubai and to some shady ones in Santacruz, in Mumbai. Huge amounts were spent in buying properties in hill stations like Lonavala and Mahabaleshwar.

'Double' the nickname he acquired because of Haji Haji, was top on the hit list of rival gangster Chhota Rajan, for more than a decade. A central intelligence agency had offered $50,000, to get him killed in 1997.

A similar offer was made by a rival drug lord 'NK' to get his former associate killed two years later. He was finally gunned down near Billad on the Maharashtra-Gujarat borders, on October 9, 2005.

Haji Haji was also involved in landing huge consignments of arms and ammunition along the Maharashtra and Gujarat coast, prior to the 1993 blasts in Mumbai. This was masterminded by Dawood Ibrahim and the Pakistani intelligence.

These facts came to light after Haji Haji's son Waqar Mahmood, was questioned by Mumbai's crime branch on October 27, 2005. He was brought from Jamnagar jail in Gujarat, where he is facing criminal charges.

Komdi (Hen)

Undertrials are interested in criminals involved in economic offences. Such accused are called *komdi* because hardcore criminals consider them soft targets who could be pressurized for money while serving jail terms and even after they are released.

Kumar Pillai

Kumar Pillai masterminded the killing of Lal Singh Chauhan, to avenge the murder of his father Krishna Pillai, who was killed on October 17, 1989.

Chauhan, a *nagar sevak* or corporator from east Vikhroli had joined hands with members of the Ashok Joshi gang before he crossed swords with the senior Pillai.

Thirsty for revenge, Kumar meticulously planned the murder of his father's killer at Borivili railway station, taking the oneway path to Mumbai's murky underbelly.

Kumar later joined hands with members of the Amar Naik gang and was a regular visitor at 144 Tenements, a cluster of buildings at Lower Parel, which

was the gang's stronghold. He was arrested with Amar Naik's younger brother Ashwin in 1993, before going underground.

Pallai's hirelings have become active once again gunning down estate agent Sunil Maskare on October 6, 2007. The gang is now eyeing for a share in the booming real estate at Vikhroli's Kannamwar Nagar and adjoining areas.

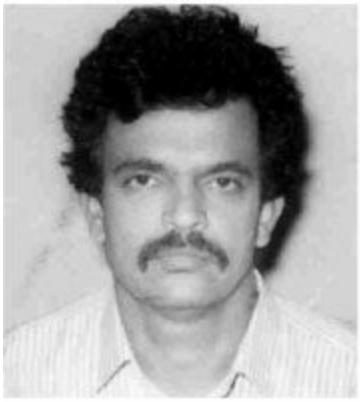
Kutta (Dog)

Kutta in the underworld is used to denote a ten-rupee note. The word is still used in and around Dongri, in south Mumbai.

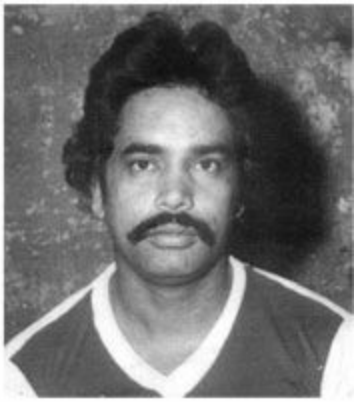
Masters of The Game

Abdul Kanju

Abu Salem



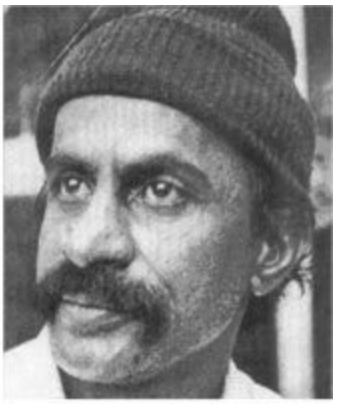
Amar Naik



Amirzada

Anil Parab

Anis Ibraham Kaskar



Arun Gawli

Ashok Joshi

Ashwin Naik

Babu Reshim

Babya Mayakar

Chota Babu

Chhota Rajan

Chhota Shakeel

D.K. Rao

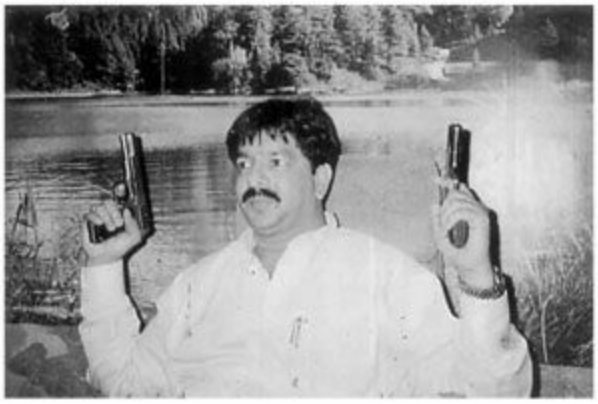
David Pardeshi

Dawood Ibrahim and wife Mehjabbin at Chhota Rajan's Marriage

Farid Tanasha

Haji Mastan

Haji Mastan with Dilip Kumar and Saira Banu



Hussein Ustra

Kajal

Karim Lala

Lamboo Shakeel

Maya Dolas

Nitin Sawant, Chota Rajan's aide, killed in an encounter

Priya Rajput

Ritu Divekar

Sada Pawle

Samad Khan

Santosh Naik

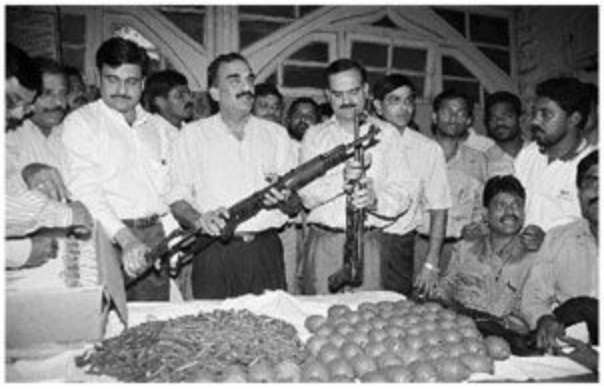
Subash Singh Thakur

Sunil Ghate

Suresh Manchekar

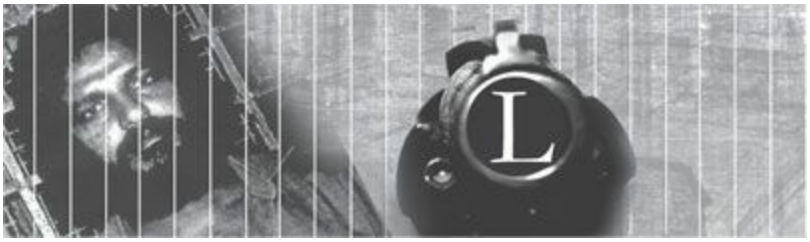
Vinod Matkar

Wardharajan Mudaliar



D. Sivanandhan, former Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch), after recovery of large cache of arms. Third from left Pradip Sawant (E.SP.), fifth from left Param Bir Singh (Addl. Comm.).

Gangsters killed in an encounter



Laddu (Sweet)

A bomb is often referred to as *laddu* in the underworld. The word has been coined from the round-shaped sweet —laddu, as it looks identical to a small bomb.

Lal Vite Ke Chawl

That was where godfather Rama Naik who groomed and a generation of gangsters lived. Naik was in his late 30s when he hit the crime circuit and his mean methods marked a turning point in the city's netherworld. From thuggery and territorial disputes, the gang graduated to full-scale wars.

Gang activities were centered around the old dilapidated building, which got its name from the prominent red bricks of the structure. Naik started his syndicates by demanding *hafta* from another local goon, Mohan Salmalkar, for allowing him to run his illicit businesses in the area. Others were also paying regular protection money to the Lal Vite ke Chawl.

Matters came to a head when rival gangster Parasnath Pande's accomplice Kundan Dubey's sister, Pushpa, got close to Arvind Naik's elder brother. This resulted in the murder of Naik's younger brother, Umakant.

The murder led to the polarizing of gangs near S Bridge — a S-shaped bridge in Byculla. Babu Reshim, Vilas Chougle, Bablya Sawant and Motiram Mahadik soon joined hands to strengthen the Rama Naik gang. Politican and

Member of Legislative Assembly, Arun Gawli was then an understudy of Naik.

Lambi (Labmi That Killed Samad Khan)

Assault rifles like the AK 47 and AK 56 series, in underworld lingo are also called *'lambi*. The name comes from the long muzzle used to gun down don Karim Lala's fiery nephew, Samad Khan.

January 1, 1993. The night dragged on and when the fiery Samad Khan was finally on his way out, a group of shooters waiting below were informed.

The light in the fourth floor room in a shady hotel in Sikka Nagar, Girgaum in south Mumbai was switched off. It was a clear indication that Samad had left his hotel room.

As soon as the elevator stopped on the ground floor of the building, a killer squad of Rama Naik, Babu Reshim and Sanjay Ruggad pushed their nozzles into the elevator and emptied their magazines into the fiery Pathan.

The girl who was earlier with Samad slipped out into the still dark and deserted street in Sikka Nagar in Khetwadi, and disappeared.

Dawood was aware of Samad's liking for woman. He decided to use a honey trap to bring down the dreaded gangster.

The ambush had taken Samad by surprise. So swift was the attack that he was unable to use his 'machine' ie, the automatic weapon.

Samad's associates later claimed that the slain gangster also had hand grenades in his bag. But the salvo of bullets from Dawood's hired hands did him in.

Dawood had sought the help of Byculla Company to eliminate Samad. He also arranged for the AK 47s, a rare weapon in the early 1990s.

Later, Hamid Dalip took responsibility of the killing after he was arrested in

Bangalore. He wanted to avenge the death of his father Aziz Dalip, killed by Samad Khan in 1983.

Samad had formed a deadly combination with Amirzada and Alamzed. The trio was involved in extortion and contract killings.

Earlier, Samad had opened fire during the wedding celebration of Dawood's younger brother Anees. Samad was out on bail then and a bullet from his automatic weapon had injured Dawood's sibling Iqbal.

Lathi-Kathi (Sticks)

Early 1970s were the days of *lathi-kathi* or sticks. A muscular appearance was an asset and youth spent hours sweating it out in gymnasiums to get into good shape.

MLA Krishna Desai's murder had upset the mafia power equation in central Mumbai. Power was gradually shifting from gymnasium owners like Lad Master and Moses Dada, to a new breed of killers. In the underworld, it was the transition from *lathi-kathi* and Rampuri knives to handguns.

Girgaum saw the rise of Chandrakant Khopde alias Baby's Golden Gang and the Valgi-Palgi gang in Dadar. Shashi Rasam led the Cobra gang from central Mumbai. Rama Naik and Babu Reshim ran their empire from Dagdi Chawl. By the late 1970s, the gymnasium had lost its importance. Armed gangsters began calling the shots.

Lift-Wali Building

9 mm Caliber Semi-Automatic Star Pistol

Building with a lift and pistol: the connections seemed a bit confusing. Bullets are pushed upwards by a spring in an automatic pistol, just like an elevator goes up. This term was coined to get around snoopy cops. Thus, when a gangster tells his associate '*lift-wali building le kar ana* it actually

means to come with a loaded pistol.

Lonavala Killings

Gangsters Francis Xavier alias Shorty and Vijay Sawant alias Viju were gunned down inside a hotel room at Lonavala in 1985. The two hitmen were affiliated to Philip Pandare's gang. The key shooters in the killings were Rajan Nair, Chhota Rajan and Vilas Chougule.

Pandare had earlier crossed swords with Rajan Nair and his men at Tilak Nagar, in Chembur. The gangland equation in north Mumbai changed after the killings.

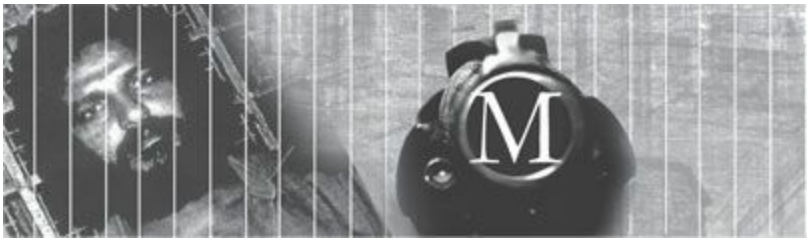
Laxmi Soni (Gangster Guru Satam's Childhood Sweetheart In Mumbai)

Crime branch officials arrested Laxmi from her dingy Jawalkar Mansion apartment, in Parel, for collecting protection money on behalf of the Satam gang, in 2002.

Though Satam is married and a father of two married children, Laxmi is still at his side, a fact disclosed during police investigations. Laxmi's younger brother Raju also joined the gang but was gunned down by crime branch officers Mahesh Desai and Ninad Sawant, in Mumbai in August 2002.

Lukha (Mean)

Lukha is a mean guy in the underworld, often a person who is broke and does not want to spend. It also means a person who is expendable.



Maa Ke Sat Bete Kitne?

'Maa ke sat bete kitne ?' (How many children with the mother?) in underworld lingo means 'how many bullets do you have?' *Maa* actually means the weapon and *bete* are the live rounds needed for carrying out the killing.

Maa Ke Sat Bache Le Kar Ana

'Maa ke sat bache le kar ana' This.means, bring the weapons and all the ammunition to the spot. *Maa* means weapons and *bachee* are the bullets.

Machli Pani Se Bahar Aya Kya?

Machlipani se bahar aya kya?' means, 'Has the fish come out of the water?' Gang's often used this phrase when closing in on their prey. *Machli* refers to a target. The shooters are actually asking the watcher whether the target has left the office or residence so that they can strike.

Machmach (Shaikh Fahim Ahmed)

From a skilled gunrunner in the back streets of Mumbai to Number 3 in Dawood Ibrahim's D Company, Shaikh Fahim Ahmed has come a long way.

He earned the nickname Machmach because of his propensity for constant chatter.

Machmach had an uncanny knack of supplying arms, without ever getting caught to Dawood's shooters, in the early 1990s. In the beginning his only job was to threaten people over the phone. But for all that talk, the Dongri youth, currently understood to be hiding in Pakistan, is yet to fire a round.

Madan Choudhary

Madan Choudhary, a close associate of Subhash Singh Thakur, was looking after operations in the Thane—Virar belt after the former was arrested under the provisions of TADA, in 1993.

Underworld sources believe that Choudhary fell-out with Gawli in around 1989 because the latter believed he was getting too big for his boots. Chhota Rajan too began to bay for his blood after he broke away from his gang and joined hands with his rivals.

It was Choudhary's friendship with Subhash Singh Thakur and top aide Shamkishore Garigapatti that helped him to move on to larger things. He soon assumed the mantle of the Thakur Gang, which also developed links with another overseas gangster Ali Budesh. Most of their targets were builders.

Mahendra Shelar

Shelar was a member of the Chhota Rajan gang. He teamed up with Wilson George, another gangster from Saki Naka in north Mumbai.

He became a gangster after an accidental run-in with maverick shooter Maya Dolas.

Shelar was obsessed with getting back at Dolas. He formed a gang of his own

and went on a robbing spree before he was arrested in 1989.

Later he murdered his mentor Manya Kokate, before being inducted in the Chhota Rajan gang. He took direct instructions from Chhota Rajan and his right-hand-man Rohit Verma.

Mahesh Dholakia

The Gujarati businessman who was only a hair's breadth away from the top rung of the underworld ladder in Mumbai.

Mahesh and his brother, Arvind, were among the trend setting *seths* who began financing underworld operations in the city.

Sons of a small time cloth merchant near Null Bazaar's Do Taki, the two brothers started out by smuggling imported textiles, which was a lucrative business in the late 1960s.

The Dholakia brothers made deep inroads into the smuggling of Boski and other textiles from Daman, then the hub of smuggling activities along the west coast of the country. Profits were almost 100 per cent.

According to a former business associate, the duo hired a fleet of almost 150 vehicles to ensure that the contraband reached the city in time. Some of the material was smuggled in from Konkan, supplied by Aziz Konkani and Fundan Khan.

The Dholakia brothers and their associates soon developed contacts with suppliers in Dubai to eliminate the middleman. This move saw their business soar and they soon beat their rivals in the trade.

Problems for the Dholakia brothers started when they began hob-nobbing with gangsters like Dawood Ibrahim and his older brother Shabir. Mahesh formed an alliance with Appu Shetty, Jayanta Shetty, Shridhar Shetty, Sharad Shetty, Vijay Kanjari and Babya Khopde of the Golden Gang.

Mahesh's real problems began when he was accused of financing

Chandrashekar Safalika, the man who killed Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan. This was soon followed by the murder of Babu Reshim in the Jacob Circle police lock-up. Mahesh was accused of harbouring Hafisji Azamgadi, a suspect in the murder. Tilak Nagar goons were baying for his blood.

Mahesh's enemies got their chance on October 13, 1987 when he left his Peddar Road residence to buy a table. Shooters of the Byculla Company closed in on him and chased him. They caught up with him near Tardeo. He was shot 30 times.

The police later arrested Jagjit Singh, Dilip Kulkarni and Matik, all members of the Byculla Company.

Mama Banaya (Fooling In Kathmandu)

"Kya re Dedwa, tera seth ne paisa nahin bheja? (Dedu your boss has not paid up yet)?" said Mirza Dilshad Baig to Suresh Kisan Waghmare alias Dedu, a key member of the Chhota Rajan gang, as he was ushered into the chilling large fortress like mansion near Kathmandu.

Dedu slipped into Nepal to meet Baig in connection with an arms deal. His associate Vijay Gabriel Gonsalves alias Viju was with him as they met the Member of Parliament at his official residence.

Incidentally, Baig was hinting at the last installment of Rs 15 lakh for a consignment of arms supplied to Rajan's gang. The assorted firearms could easily have a street value of Rs 33 lakh in Mumbai.

Baig, in his early 40s was a *'Bhaiya'*, who migrated from Krishnanagar in Uttar Pradesh, to Nepal around 1984. He nurtured the ambition to become the Minister for Housing and Physical Training in the Himalayan Kingdom.

Baig was already on the list of the Indian intelligence network for his links with Mumbai's underworld. They also suspected him of smuggling huge consignment of drugs to Dubai through South Africa at the behest of Dawood Ibrahim.

'Yeh Dubaiwalle bade khane ke table bicha detaj hain, magar paise milna mushkil hain," (People in Dubai treat you well. But payment is hard to come by), he added. Kanwa incidentally is the same Hyder Kania, who was instrumental in smuggling about 1.5 tonnes of Mandrax tablets to Dawood's men using Baig's network in Nepal. The money had not reached Mirza and he wasn't too happy with Dawood either.

Even as Baig was confused about the terms of payment, Dedu and Vijay Gonsalves had managed to procure yet another consignment of bulletproof vests from him. Members of the Rajan gang were secretly piling up their arsenal for a big kill in Mumbai.

Mian Gaon (Muslim Village)

Karachi in Pakistan is referred to as *Mian Goan* or Muslim village in Mumbai's underworld. The port city has assumed significance in the netherworld because Dawood Ibrahim is believed to be holed up there. A Muslim is also known as *Mian* on the streets of Mumbai.

Main Zinda Hoon (I am alive)

November 11, 1998. Weary policemen and ward boys were wheeling in limp bodies of five gangsters to the morgue of KEM Hospital in Parel.

They nearly jumped out of their skins as one of the 'dead bodies' suddenly said: *'Main Zinda hoon"* (I am alive).

D K Rao almost rose from the dead as he threw aside the shroud covering him and sat up on the stretcher staring at the bewildered policemen.

The robber-turned-gangster had survived the bullets of Senior Inspector Ambadas Pote and his men in what was an 'encounter' in broad daylight, near Dadar.

The special squad however, had managed to eliminate Rao's associates Raja Gore, Bipin Khandpal, Ramesh Pujari and Jayram Shetty. Police claimed that the Chhota Rajan gangsters were planning to target bomb blast accused Ehtesham and others near the jail.

Gangsters rarely survive encounters in Mumbai. But Rao, Rajan's right hand in Mumbai, was second time lucky. He had earlier survived police bullets at Khar in 1987.

Majnoon (Lover)

Mustafa Dossa used to sell *alu tikki* (potato cutlet) and boiled eggs on the city's mean streets of Dongri.

All seemed well for the Dossa family in the 1960s. Their grandfather Ahmed Umer then owned a small rice mill near Babula Tank, in Dongri. But fortune took a wrong turn and the family was reduced to penury.

Mustafa and older brother Mohammed began hawking chaat and boiled eggs for a living. But Dongri's street-life led them to small-time robberies and soon, the duo were among the best-known *chindi chors* or small-time criminals around.

Their uncanny skills in bag lifting were noticed by Rafiq Dada, a ring leader of sorts and a local *dada,* who introduced the two to the Mumbai docks, a haven for smugglers in the early 1970s.

By 1980, Mustafa had forged strong links in Dubai, for his gold business. This route was generally known as the 'godown line', where women carried gold biscuits concealed in their bodies. That's when he earned the nickname of 'Majnoon', after the legendary lover. He jumped in and out of relationships with many of these girls and the name simply stuck.

In 1984, Mustafa was declared a proclaimed offender under COFEPOSA. He was holed up in Dubai.

In 1993, he allegedly landed a huge consignment of arms and explosives at

Dighi, in Raigad district. That was his contribution to the serial bomb blasts that year. But luck turned against him once again, and on March 18, 2003, the United Arab Emirates deported him to Mumbai.

Manya Surve (Bombay's First Encounter)

January 11,1982. It was around 1.30pm, when 18 Crime Branch officers split into three crack teams and lay in wait for urban dacoit Manya Surve, in what was to become Bombay's first police encounter.

Twenty minutes later, a taxi stopped near a beauty parlour at Ambedkar College junction in Wadala. Surve alighted, apparently to pick up his girlfriend, a widow with two children. The squad closed in and took positions. Sensing danger, Surve pulled his Webly & Scott revolver, but before he could pull the trigger, police officers Raja Tambat and Ishaq Bagwan pumped five bullets into his chest and shoulder.

It is said that on the way to KEM Hospital, Surve kept screaming that the officers had not given him a fair chance to defend himself. He died a few minutes later and with him died the legend of urban dacoity that had reached deadly dimensions.

Sources inform that Vardhabhai, a major underworld leader found his position challenged by Surve and tipped off the police.

Born in 1944, Manohar Arjun Surve migrated to Mumbai with his mother and stepfather from Konkan. He joined the Arts stream in Kirti College and under the influence of his stepbrother Bhargav Dada, formed a gang of students.

Bhargav was a goon from Agar Bazar in Worli. In 1969, he was involved in the murder of one Dandekar, with his associates Surve and Manya Podhkar. Police Inspector E.S. Dabolkar soon arrested them and a watertight case presented by the prosecution saw the three get life sentence. In Yerwada, Surve crossed swords with his contemporary Suhas Bhatkar alias Potya. Fed up with Manya's terror tactics, jail authorities got the gangster transferred to

Ratnagiri Jail. Surve lost almost 20 kgs in a hunger strike in prison before he was shifted to the local civil hospital. Seizing the first opportunity, Surve gave the authorities the slip on November 14, 1979 and returned to Bombay, richer by nine years' experience in prison.

Surve soon found trusted lieutenants in Sheikh Munir from Dharavi and Vishnu Patil from Dombivili. Uday Shetty joined the gang a little later to form a formidable combination. That was in March 1980.

Recalling a plot of a James Hadley Chase novel that he had read during his stint in jail, Surve decided to loot money from the government milk scheme to gain recognition in the upper echelons of the city's underworld.

A car was stolen near Barkha Bijlee Cinema halls in Mahim and the heist of Rs. 1.26 lakh was executed near Govandi. The stolen vehicle was later found abandoned near National College in Bandra, exactly as penned in the Chase novel.

Some of Surve's associates were identified as Dayanand Shetty, Parshuram Katkar, Moreshwar Narvekar and Kishore Sawant.

Other robberies included Rs. 1.6 lakh from Canara Bank's branch on Sion-Trombay road and Duke and Sons Company, at Deonar. The Police were under tremendous pressure and Operation Manya Surve was launched to curb crime.

Surve suffered his first setback when key associate Munir was picked up from a chemical company near Kalyan, on June 22, 1981, Dayanand Shetty and Katkar were nabbed from a lodge in Goregoan a few days later. Anticipating a swoop, Surve slipped into an aide's hideout in Bhiwandi, on November 19, 1981. Police squads broke into the house being used as hideout and recovered a hand grenade, a country-made revolver and some live rounds.

Systematic combing operations resulted in restricting his operations in the city. With the arrest of Uday Shetty, he became a one-man army. The army lasted only a few days before the city's first encounter was staged.

Matka (Clandestine Betting)

Matka was the main source of income for underworld gangs until the late 1970s. Almost all the gangs raked in the moolah from protection money given by these illegal betting dens.

The history of the *matka* business can be traced back to times as early as 1962, when Kalyanji Shah alias Kalyanjibhai began the *Worli Matka*. The game is played with 12 cards minus the queen. The ratio of payment is 1 to 11.

Ratan Khatri introduced the 'New Worli' on May 2, 1964. The rule of the game was slightly modified. The cards were supposed to be drawn in the presence of a patron. But that seldom happened.

The kingpin's cronies collected a data of all the bets across the city over the telephone. Using statistical methods, the numbers which were not popular on that day were selected. The numbers was relayed back to the booking agents and were displayed on boards inside betting dens across the city.

While Kalyanji's *matka* operated seven days a week, Ratan Khatri ran the betting racket between Monday and Friday only.

New players like Chinu Chandrakant, Abnani, Babla and Shanti Khetwadi soon joined the fray.

The *matka* business was seriously affected during the Emergency. But it picked up again with other players like Prashantbhai, Balu Thane, Bhavagi Fort and Khote.

By 1990, the underworld had strengthened its hold over the *matka* business. Khatri's betting rackets folded after he was threatened by Dilip Kulkarni alias DK. His empire was overrun by Main Fort and Surya.

By 1993 the *matka* business had shifted its base to Fort in south Mumbai. Betting agents had started experimenting with a new system known as 'Toran Spatic'.

Though there were several *matka* related stabbing cases in Mumbai, the killing of Kalyanji Shah's son, Vasant, at Worli had shaken the operators.

Insiders say *matka* collections amount to more than Rs 350 crore a month with centres in Goa, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Gangs earn around two per cent of the profits as protection money.

Collecting *hafta* from the local *matka* operators is a prestigious issue in the underworld. Powerful local gangs are paid more money.

Matter (Job)

All was well until Arun Gawli's key associate Mohan Mali visited him during his detention in Yerwada Jail, in 1992. The lieutenant complained that a politician's son had crossed swords with the gang over a property matter, in Dadar.

Mali explained that two Parsi owners had rented a popular hotel to one Singh for Rs. 30,000/-per month, with a Rs. 10-lakh deposit, for a period of five years. Though the lease expired, the latter had refused to honour the agreement.

Even as the dispute was being contested in court, Singh sold the hotel to the politician's son. Soon after, the Parsi owner began receiving threats to settle the matter.

The owner approached Mali and sought his intervention. However, the son paid no heed to the gang's requests and relationships began to sour.

More so, since the leader's son had told Mali that being a Maharashtrian gang they should not interfere in his matter. He also made veiled remarks that even gangster Dawood Ibrahim was avoiding a head on confrontation with him.

Mali narrated the matter to his mentor Gawli, in jail. Gawli asked his men to act and armed henchmen swarmed the hotel. Two men from Bandra then approached Gawli's second-in-command, Ashok Choudhary alias Chhota

Babu, to inform the don that they were willing to reach an agreement. The Parsi owner agreed to Rs. 70 lakh with a 10 per cent cut for the gang.

Maverick Pathans

Samad, Hamid and his younger brother Majid were friends before they crossed swords. A 200 meter lane separated the three foes.

It all started when Hamid slapped Samad over a trivial issue. Though friends intervened, the insult was far too much for the impulsive gangster.

Samad left the party in anger. The two friends separated, but not before swearing to kill each other.

Problems started when Hamid slipped in a snake into Sonya Mahal, a dance bar in south Mumbai. Even as the patrons ran for cover, the burly Pathan lifted one of the dancers on his shoulder and sped on his Bullet motorcycle.

Samad was stunned by Hamid's bizarre move. The dancer was among his liked women.

Two hours later Samad struck back by attacking Hamid's father Dalip Aziz with a sword, killing him outside Bacchuwala Building on Navroji Lane No 1, in Dongri. The killing had launched a major gang war among the various factions in south Mumbai.

It was not long before Hamid attacked Samad's friend Fazlu Lala near Amber Bar in Dongri, a fallout of the killing of Aziz. But Ashok Anti was made scrapegoat in the case.

The Aziz family lived on the second floor. They specialised in selling illicit liquor brewed under the brand name 'Five Fruits' at Bhimpura Maidan, in Dongri.

Dalip's popular country-made brewed from *jambU* by Darzi Master, was sold at Rs four, a bottle. It was a common sight to see more than 200 addicts squatting on *chatais* (mats) at any time in the evening, informed a former

associate.

Dalip Aziz had migrated from Bangalore. He fathered Hamid, Majid and daughter Niliofer.

Six feet five plus Hamid spread terror in the backstreets of Dongri and the adjoining areas. Intimidating policemen and rioting was common.

He was a regular visitor to the Bombay International Hotel and Sonya Mahal on Marine Drive.

Mehdi Imran

Mehdi Imran Nasir Sheikh, nephew of notorious gangster and bomb blast accused Ejas Pathan. Mehdi's name entered police records way back in 1992, when he was arrested for being involved in a robbery at Colaba. Though only a teenager then, there was no looking back for this tall and well-built Pathan. He was arrested again the same year, for rioting at Murgi Mohalla near Masjid Bunder.

Worried about Mehdi after his involvement in a string of robberies in Mumbai and Aurangabad, Pathan arranged for his escape to Karachi. Pathan himself was holed up there in 1993. The plan did not work however, as Pathan fell out with Chhota Shakeel.

Mehdi escaped to Dubai in 1996 fearing Shakeel might be trying to kill him to settle his score with Pathan. Twenty-six-year old Mehdi eventually returned to Mumbai in 1998. He soon fell in love with a schoolteacher's daughter at Kurla, whom he married. The same year, he was arrested for his involvement in the firing at Kapoor Jewellers near Shalimar Hotel, in central Mumbai. It was this attack that established his reputation in the upper level of Mumbai's underworld.

Misa

The Maharashtra Internal Security Act (MISA) was introduced to curb crime. The government's intentions were noble, but it ended up bringing gangsters together.

Rama Naik of the Byculla Company fame was arrested and detained in Kalyan jail. He was soon joined by Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan from Tilak Nagar. Both were arrested under the provisions of MISA.

It was through this contact-building in prison that Rama Naik came in touch with underworld don Vardarajan Mudaliar, who Bada Rajan was considered close to.

After their release, Bada Rajan frequented Lal Vite ki Chawl in Byculla to meet Rama Naik. He was often accompanied by Chhota Rajan, Abdul Kunju, Ramesh Sharma alias Gunga, Raju Sharma alias Chikna, Ganeshsingh Bhist alias Danny, Kamlakar Adangle, Ashok Kunder, Deva, Ravanya and Domnic.

Rama Naik and his men visited Tilak Nagar in Chembur and sought safe sanctuary there.

Chhota Rajan even lived with Rama Naik's family for over a year when he was wanted in connection with a serious crime in Chembur. Many of his men found a safe place to hide in Dagdi Chawl.

The detention also gave gangsters a chance to test their strength against their rivals. Shashi Rasam had incurred the wrath of many adversaries by his intimidating tactics in the jail.

Prisons had become the meeting place where gangsters developed long lasting friendships after their release.

Mirchi

Iqbal Mirchi was among the first to use underworld muscle power for his smuggling and drug trafficking syndicates in the city. Born Iqbal Mohammed Memon, he acquired the name Iqbal Mirchi because of his forefathers, who

traded in chilly powder.

The Anti-Narcotics Cell of Mumbai police had stumbled on to Mirchi's well-knit syndicates and Pathan Niyaz Khan was arrested from Vapi in 1982.

This was the beginning of a wave of raids. After 125 kgs of hashish were seized from Mirchi's hideout at Saifi Building near Mahim, the elusive trafficker shifted his base to Alibaug and the porous Saurashtra coast in Gujarat.

When the police turned on the heat on the smuggler in the aftermath of the serial bomb blasts, Mirchi is believed to have ventured into real estate. Jahaz Manzil at Worli Sea Face and Hotel Ashima were among some of his prime properties then. Insiders say Mirchi is holed up in Europe.

Mohan Devadiga

Mohan Devadiga, an associate of gangster Chhota Rajan who escaped in a police shoot out while being escorted outside the Ulhasnagar Court, in 1997.

Mohan Kotian

Kotian, a former Chhota Rajan aide from Tilak Nagar, had allegedly defected to rival Dawood Ibrahim gang in 1997. Balu Dokre alias 'Mirchi' was assigned the job to finish off the former Chhota Rajan aide in Bangalore.

Verma managed to lure Kotian out of Bangalore 1997. The victim was repeatedly stabbed by Dokre on an isolated highway and succumbed to multiple stab wounds.

Muchchad

India's most wanted gangster Dawood Ibrahim is also known as Muchchad.

This is because of his thick mustache.

Mummy (Ms Asha Gawli)

Zubeda Mujawar was still in school when she came on a holiday from Vadgaon Pir village near Pune, to visit her sister at Dagdi Chawl in Mumbai, in the early 1980s.

Little did she known she would end up marrying neighbour Arun Gawli, a key member of the Byculla Company, headed by Rama Naik and Babu Reshim. The new bride came to be known as Asha Gawli and later Mummy, when her husband became the don and 'Daddy' for the members.

Murga (Cock)

What will a policeman or layman decipher when they hear *'Nagpada ja kar murga le lena'?* A *murga* or cock in gangland lingo means a two-wheeler. Dawood Ibrahim's trusted lieutenant Mohammed Kanjari was known to use the words while speaking to his men.

Musafirkhana

Dawood Ibrahim and his elder brother Shabir, actually began with putting fake foreign stamps on locally-made synthetic sarees at Musafirkhana.

Their skills were noticed by don Haji Mastan or Hajibhai when he was told by other businessmen that two juveniles and an elder man were selling fake sarees outside Musafir-khan. This was during the early 1970s.

Hajibhai's men launched a secret probe before the mystery surrounding the fake saree scam was traced to the two juveniles and a former municipal guard at Pathanwadi in Dongri.

A fleet of cars zipped into the narrow lanes of Pathanwadi. Hajibhai and his toughies hauled up the municipal guard, who was lucky to escape unbeaten as he still remembers.

The trio confessed that they had bought the sarees from Surat in Gujarat, at cheaper rates. They used fake stamps before selling them as imported products.

The kingpin explained to the trio that their misdemeanor was bringing disrepute to Musafirkhana and the adjoining Manish Market, considered to be the hub of smuggling activities in south Mumbai. The two kids were offered jobs to work for smugglers on commission.

That was when Dawood Ibrahim was introduced to imported textiles. A yard of Boski-a shirting fabric-would fetch him around Rs 55. He soon added stretchlon, which was popular for trousers, to his sales list. One piece sold for Rs 90. But Dawood really hit the jackpot when he laid his hands on huge consignments of Omex watches, also known as biscuits, as many models looked like. These watches fetched him Rs 350 for each.

A large number of businessmen in Musafirkhana and Manish Market still remember Dawood Ibrahim as a very shrewd businessman.

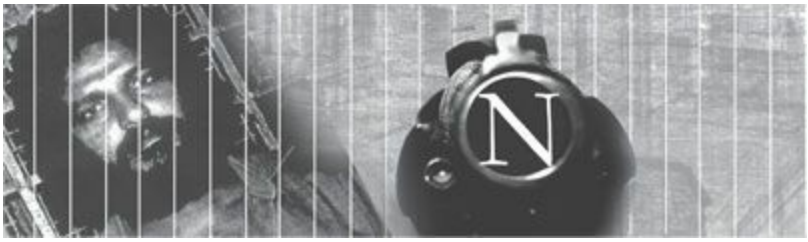
Muttappa Rai

Muttappa Rai was wanted by the Karnataka state police before he was deported from Dubai on May 29, 2002. Records indicates he hired one Eric D'Souza from Mumbai to target one Shridhar Murthy.

M3 Gang

Shyamkishore Garigapatti became the schemer of the M-3 gang which comprised of Milind Shejwal, Milind Sonawane and Milind Shinde, all operating from the Bhim Nagar slums of Ghatkopar west.

The gang disbanded after Garigapatti was arrested. The ringleader moved on to more serious crime after he joined hands with Subash Singh Thakur.



Naka Bandi

Shooters usually avoid using their own cars after a shootout knowing that the police have their numbers and that they will soon be snared in a *naka-bandi.* There are often multiple getaway vehicles along with the support team. But the easiest is to get into a waiting taxi or local suburban train, which most of the shooters have been doing over the years.

Nankatai

Senior constable Ibrahim Kaskar was then very influential in Bombay Police's Pathan Branch, now the elite crime branch. He knew Dongri and the adjoining areas like the back of his hand.

Elders in Dongri say if Ibrahim Kaskar was seen having *nankatai* (salted cookies) with tea, it was almost certain that someone would get killed in the next 24 hours. The needle of suspicion often pointed to members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang.

Shabir and Dawood had specialized in the *'palti'* business by deftly replacing real goods with fakes, with the sleight of the hand. But they also had the money to hire contract killers to carry out murders at their behest.

Nau (Nine)

Nau or nine in the underworld, is often used to refer to a policeman. The name, like many others, originated during the game of China Peti.

Nikal Le (Get Lost)

"Well, Dilip Bhai. It's been a long time, How about some pocket money?" asked Manuel D'souza alias Vakil. Dreaded gangster Dilip Bhuwa alias Dilip Bhai, pulled out a Rs 50 note from his upper pocket and pressed it into Vakil Manuel's palm *"Nikal Le* (Get Lost)" he whispered to Bhuva.

Instead of quietly getting lost, Vakil yelled, *'Ashok Joshi Ki Jai."* Manuel was unaware that Bhuwa had broken away from the Ashok Joshi faction, a gang active in Kanjur Marg, north Mumbai and that Dolas, Bhuwa and six others had sneaked into Kanjur Village, to wipe out the gang.

The next instant, a bullet pierced Vakil from close range, fired by Bhuwa's associate Maya Dolas.

It was September 17,1989. Five innocent lives were lost after Bhuwa and Dolas resorted to indiscriminate firing in the once sleepy village.

Nilesh Kokam

A close associate of Chhota Shakeel named in over a dozen killings in Mumbai, Kokam formed a deadly combination with Rajesh More and Biju Bengali. He was killed in an encounter on May 20, 2000.

Nita Naik

Gangster Ashwin Naik, whose wife Nita, later became a municipal corporator, did not harbour dreams to become Mumbai's don. Ashwin was planning a career as an engineer after he studied overseas. Nita wanted to

become an interior designer after she completed her studies in Sophia College. But their dreams of a normal life were shattered when Ashwin was attacked by a rival gang because he was well-known gangster Amar Naik's younger brother. Ashwin survived but only to be consigned to a wheelchair.

But this did not stop Ashwin from assuming leadership of the gang after Amar was killed in a police encounter in 1997. Nita's dream of a blissful domestic life was also shattered.

Ashwin was on the run and after he was imprisoned in Tihar Jail, Nita was forced to coordinate the gang's activities.

Nita, in the meantime got elected as a municipal coporator on a Shiv Sena ticket. It was during this time that she came to be romantically linked to the Chief Minister's police bodyguard Laxman Ziman.

It was matter of time before news of his wife's affair with Ziman reached Naik.

A few weeks later, Nita was shot dead outside her fourth floor residence in Lower Parel, on November 13, 2000. The disabled Ashwin was still a don.

Nizam Konkani

In the mid-1980s, Nizamuddin Mohammed Kadri alias Nizam Konkani had been notorious in the narrow alleys of Dongri. At around the same time, the then novice criminal Dawood Ibrahim, was named in a few petty crimes in the area.

According to police records, Nizam Konkani attacked two constables and an officer with a chopper when they tried to arrest him from his hideout. While Havaldar More died on the spot, another constable Rane was lucky to survive with multiple stab wounds. The officer fled from the scene of crime.

A little later, Nizam too left the country, fearing he would be killed in a staged encounter.

Nizam managed to enter Dubai and soon approached Dawood for a job. His one time junior offered him the job of a driver. He was killed in an encounter near Dockyard Road on August 26,1998, by a squad led by Pradip Sawant, who was then an Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Nulla (Fake)

Gangster Abu Salem is a *nulla.* That is what members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang had to say after he was deported from Portugal and detained at Arthur Road jail, Byculla, in 2005.

D-Company's top aides were a bit worried when they found Salem sobbing in the jail. He suffered frequent breakdowns during interrogations. D-Company felt Salem should have behaved like a real don instead of crying. The gangster was expected to be bold.

The impression that had gained ground in underworld circles was that Salem may crack under pressure and disclose details of various gangs.

But the gangster survived the ordeal by disclosing juicy titbits about his relationships with Bollywood starlets and actors instead. He got close with a few lawyers, including a lady lawyer.

Salem's is not an isolated case. There are other top raking gangsters like Fayeem Machmach or Chhota Shakeel who have never faced a team of crime branch officers.

Number Chadana (The SIM game and Manchekar)

"I met Dada. I will be returning home tomorrow," whispered Santosh Naik alias Maharaj to his wife, Avantika.

The words sent Assistant Police Inspector Ravindra Angre into a tizzy. The former bank officer was overhearing Naik's conversations on a parallel line. Little was Maharaj aware that these few words could lead to one of the most

sensational manhunts and encounters of recent years. The target: dreaded gangster Suresh Manchekar.

Manchekar had unleashed a reign of terror even before Angre was assigned to Thane's Anti Extortion Cell in 2002. The daylight killings of builder Mahendra Khanvilkar at Parel and Dr Deepak Shetty at Kalyan had spread fear among the business community in the district.

Manchekar's aide Prakesh Utekar was gunned down in an encounter at Thane, in September 2002. But the killing did not affect the gang's working nor did it reduce threats to builders and businessmen in the district.

After co-relating telephone numbers of relatives and associates, the police concluded that Dilip Sonawane could lead them to Manchekar. Maharaj, also known as *bhau* was already on the lookout list during late 2002 and his number was also being monitored.

A clear pattern had emerged. Almost all the phone calls were traced to Maharaj and settlements were done through him.

Angre's task became even more difficult when his informers told him that they had never seen Maharaj. The mysterious man did not have a criminal background.

Conversations and threats kept getting recorded on mute telephone lines but there was nothing significant enough to lead the police to Manchekar or his mysterious right hand man, Maharaj.

"Maharaj was using a BPL number which started with 09823. Bad news again because BPL had the same code for Goa and Maharashtra. The line of investigations lost its edge," says Angre.

Investigators, after a detailed study of printouts of the recorded conversations, realized that all the calls were very brief and were made from different positions across Goa.

Manchekar had ensured that no SIM card was used twice. Each time it was a new prepaid number making recording conversations impossible. It was not

possible to place a number under observation at short notice. Every week it was a new number and trails were lost again and again.

Later, the jig-saw puzzle fell in place. Manchekar was aware of the tapping systems and had taken precautions.

Manchekar never made a phone call from Belgaum where he was holed up. He drove from his home in this town situated on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border to Goa on weekends to make calls and contact his associates.

The mastermind ensured that his mobile phone was switched off during the 110-kilometer journey to Goa. He knew using his phone while he was traveling could have revealed his location and helped cops track him down. Manchekar was gunned down at Kolhapur on August 15, 2003. Maharaj was arrested subsequently by Angre's men.

Number Chhodna

Gangster Chhota Rajan's key lieutenant Nitin Sawant had unleashed terror among builders in Thane in 2004. He extorted huge amounts from them as protection money.

The much dreaded Sawant was a member of Rajan's inner circle with shooters like Guru Satam, Vinod Matkar and Rohit Verma. He had moved up the gangland ladder after Verma's death in 2000.

Encounter specialist Ravindra Angre devised a plan to lure Sawant into a trap. Posing as a builder he passed on his mobile number to Sawant through a decoy.

The ploy worked. In the next few days he started receiving calls from Sawant. Angre pretented to be scared, but promised to pay up once his property was sold.

Angre sent the first instalment to Sri Lanka, where Sawant was hiding. Sawant slipped into Mumbai to collect the remainder and was gunned down on September 16, 2004.

Paanch (Five)

Paanch, in underworld lingo means a ship. The term was coined in the early 1970s when smuggling was one of the main activities of the underworld. Items like Boski textiles, gold, watches were smuggled by sea.

Pachis (25)

Pachis, another product of China Peti, denotes a police constable.

Paidal

What do you do after a killing or robbery? You scoot. (which in Hindi, denotes walking) actually means 'get lost' after the deed. *Chalpaidal ho ja* is an oft-used phrase in the underworld.

Pakmodia Street (Dawood's Stomping Ground)

Room number 33 on Pakmodia Street was Dawood Ibrahim's base for almost a decade after he was first arrested in connection with the looting of a bank in Mandvi, near Masjid Bunder, in 1975.

For the next few years, Dawood used the dingy first floor room in the

crumbling old building to carry out his underworld activities. His second-in-command Chhota Shakeel operated from his office 'Shams' on the adjoining Temkar Street.

The gang met at the Pakmodia street junction. Most of the activities in those days were related to smuggling.

The gang rode around the area on Jawa, Yezdi, Enfield and Yamaha bikes, recalls Salim Yamaha, who got the nickname after he gave Dawood a ride on his Yamaha 350 bike.

The Pakmodia house became a centre of underworld activities after Dawood's elder brother Shabir was gunned down by rival Pathan Amirzada and his associates on February 12, 1982. The Dawood gang swore to eliminate the Pathan and met here to discuss strategies

Palmgrove Party

Vardarajan Mudaliar was feeling the heat of police crackdowns. Methods of bribery and threats had failed.

A desperate Vardabhai thought of a plan to expose the underworld-police nexus by circulating video cassettes showing them in close proximity.

A party was hosted at Hotel Palmgrove in Juhu on December 12, 1984.

Video recordings shot during the function showed respectable citizens like a former coroner, doctors attached to government hospitals, two retired magistrates and policemen hobnobbing with a New Delhi based criminal.

Most of the invitees were accompanied by their families, unaware that the party was being filmed.

Four months later, on April 15, 1985, the underworld began anonymously sending out video recordings of the party.

Vardabhai was preparing the grounds to stage a comeback.

Palti (Replace Expensive Goods With Fake)

Dawood Ibrahim's rags-to-riches story began with his deft skills to replace real goods with fake, all with the sleight of hand or '*"palti* in the underworld lingo. In the 1970s, this was considered the basic skill for a smuggler.

Dawood would dupe customers in the bustling Musafirkhana market. Little would the victim realize that the cunning youth would replace the expensive goods while engaging them in conversations. Then, the buyer would be told not to open the package in the mall because policemen were on the prowl.

But the business of *palti* did not hold Dawood's attention for long and he switched to selling foreign goods stolen from small-time smugglers.

Pancha (Eye-witness)

Dawood Ibrahim's earliest brush with the 'other world', that was to become his own later, was as a hired *'pancha'* or eyewitness, of the police.

As a *pancha,* he initially became close to the police and later walked on the other side to meet the criminals against whom he was testifiying. Eventually, in the late 1970s, he chose the company of the latter.

Pant Piece Aur Dhaga

'Pant piece aur dhaga mil gaya kya?" (Did you receive the piece of trouser fabric and thread?) Suresh Manchekar's second-in-command Santosh Naik alias Maharaj asked shooter Kisan Shinde alias Manager.

'Pant piece' meant a handgun and the 'thread' meant bullets. Members of the Manchekar gang were secretly hatching a plot to kill builder Mahendra Khanvilkar. Khanvilkar was shot dead in his first floor office in broad

daylight at Parel, on March 22, 2002.

Initially, the underworld jargon sounded amusing and it took crime branch officials a while to put the jig-saw puzzle in place

Paper (Counterfeit Notes From Bhakti Inc).

The Bhuj police were not surprised when Pakistani smuggler Mohammed Husen confessed he had sailed from Mundra Port to Aftab Bhatki.

A close associate of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Bhatki specializes in counterfeit-notes or 'paper', that has been landing in the country for years.

Bhatki, is also one of the main conduits for the D Company. Much of the fake currency he supplies is used to fund underworld operations in Mumbai and Gujarat.

He is called 'Bhatki' as hails from Bhatkal in North Karnataka.

Parel Gang's Steam (How Satam Lost Steam When Railways Modernized).

The Parel mafia's growth was steam powered, since it all began for them with little pieces of copper and brass stolen from age-old steam engines undergoing repairs, at the nearby railway workshop.

It wasn't bad money. Scrap brass sold at Rs. eight per kilo and copper around Rs.ten per kilo. Bands of robbers would make around Rs. 2000/-per day in the early 1970s.

By 1975, the use of copper and brass in the workshop increased tremendously. The *'maal girana* or the dropping of the metal rose correspondingly, fetching the gang windfalls of anything between Rs.30, 000/-and Rs. 1.5 lakhs every day. They would lug huge pieces of copper — weighing around 112 kg. — from the axle box and smuggle these out of the workshop. The railway police guards preferred to look the other way; their

share of the booty was assured.

Goods from the workshop would be transported by bicycles and taxis. There were at least four fixed buyers for the goods. But when the volumes got bigger, local goon Pandya Pawle and right hand man Guru Satam, got in for a share.

Soon, rival Papa Nair and his younger brother Budgya crossed swords with Pawle for a share of the pie. The fight became fierce — Pawle and Guru Satam eliminated Nair and Budgya. A little later, Satam stabbed Pawle to death near Kombdi Gali in Parel, in 1988.

Satam could have been a copper kingpin, but steam engines were phased out and his fortunes were reversed. He shifted his base to nearby Kardar Garage.

Party Se Meeting Kar Lo (Kill Him)

Chhota Rajan's key associate Raju Nalawde was appointed the gang's 'handler', an underworld term for coordinator, because of his seniority after he was arrested and detained in connection with the murder of Shiv Sena corporator Kim Bahadur Thapa in Bhandup, in mid 1992.

Nalawade wanted a municipal corporator killed in Ulhasnagar in Thane district. The task was assigned to high-profile assassin Balu Dokre and his men.

A hit squad under Dokre was dispatched to Ulhasnagar to identify the target.

The success of any shootout depends on the homework done by the watchers.

"*Bhai party se meeting kar* lo," Nalawade told Dokre, which translated from the underworld lingo meant, 'kill him.'

Local corporator Gopal Rajwani was shot dead near a local court on January 26, 1998. But the shooters soon realized they had killed the wrong man.

Rajan was furious. But Dokre and Nalawade were among his most trusted

lieutenants and he could not punish them.

The don later found out that Dokre and Nalawade were misled into killing Rajwani. A death warrant was issued against the erring informer.

Rajan, in the meantime, ordered Vishal Dhakan alais Vicky to carryout the killing. But he and three others were arrested with the two AK 47 rifles given to eliminate the target.

Pau Takla

Dawood Ibrahim's second-in-command Shakeel Moinuddin Babu Sheikh is also known as 'Pau *Takla'* among his rivals. The name, literally meaning 'quarter bald', originated because of his thinning hair.

Payment Kar Dena (Contract Killing)

November 25, 2002. It was a Sunday afternoon and the inmates were busy cleaning up after a cricket match in the prison cell. Chhota Rajan's prime plotter Om Prakash Singh was also in the washroom of Nasik Jail.

Six feet plus, Singh was pinned to the ground by six men before they managed to strangle him to death. Thirteen members of the Chhota Rajan gang, who were abruptly transferred from Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail to Nasik, had killed him.

The gangleader's instruction to his lieutenant D K Rao was '*"party ko payment kar do'*. OP alias Wilson's popularity among gang members had made Rajan insecure as this found his position challeged.

"It is a cold-blooded pre-planned murder by members of the Chhota Rajan gang," said Singh's wife Meenakshi later.

Peela (Gold)

Spurred by a string of petty successes in Mumbai's under-world, Dawood graduated to smuggling *peela* (gold) or 116, a code name for Swiss gold biscuits. He learnt the tricks of the trade from his former mentor Hajibhai and Sukur Narain Bhakia, a Daman-based smuggler in the late 1970s.

By 1983, the youth from Pakmodia Street in south Mumbai was an established name in gold smuggling or *peela* or *tukda* business from Dubai. The Marwari traders around Shuklaji Street in Central Mumbai, were one of the biggest buyers of the contrabands. They, in turn, supplied the yellow metal to the ubiquitous jewelers across the city.

Profits from *peela* or *tukda* (piece) helped Dawood move on to fake currency and later, real estate.

Pehalwan

It was gangster Dawood Ibrahim who first introduced the *'pehalwan?* culture in Mumbai's underworld.

Even as an understudy, Dawood was always seen with a phalanx of bodyguards. Khalid Pehalwan, Anjum Pehalwan, Sher Singh, Lambu Shakeel-all 100 kg and six feet plus-were always around him to scare off his adversaries.

Initially, the ploy worked. The sight of huge bodyguards sent chills down the spines of his rivals. Soon the rivals too went on a hiring spree.

Bodybuilders like Idris Pehalwan, Shivaji and Abbu Kalia alias Boxer were seen in the company of rival groups.

While some bodyguards were from local gymnasiums, a majority of them were from *akhadas* in North India and had migrated to the city for better prospects.

The gang leaders spent huge amounts on the maintenance of these bodyguards. They were kept on a diet of *pistas, badams*, and *charas* (cannabis), often consumed during long workouts in the gymnasium.

Though the ploy worked for a while, before long, the huge men were labeled as 'show pieces'. Over time it was noticed that these men seldom took part in action.

Peti

Peti in underworld lingo means a lakh. The name originated from petty cash boxes where small-time businessmen collected their cash.

"*Bhai bole to bahut bahari cheej tha. Din me 'peti' kamaneka aur raat tak kharche kar dalne ka na bhai'* says Ahmed bhai. (He was dreaded. Sometimes he could earn around Rs 1 lakh a day and spend it by night).

A *peti* could mean a lot in the 1970s. But that was when the underworld realized that they could make money by working for tainted businessmen.

Batla and his goons were then hired by petty businessmen, small-time smugglers or *hawala* operators to recover their dues. Many were used as body guards and some even graduated to local goons.

Weakness for women was common and often led to killings. Nights dragged on in dancing bars and the *kothas* that dotted Kamathipura and Falakland-the main red-light districts of Mumbai.

Stabbing and street fights were the order of the day. Batla held an edge because of agility and skills in fighting. *'Aarey yeh to apna dhanda hai."* (this is our business), he often reminded his understudies.

Philip Pandare

Don Philip Dayanand Pandare, or Anna as he was known, specialized in

settling industrial disputes in the late 1970s and was in great demand until the mid-1980s. Several companies in industrial zones across the city used him to silence trade unions. The unions, on the other hand, used him against those who had joined hands with the management.

Pandare started as a machinist in an automotive manufacturing unit near Kurla. His problems began when he crossed swords with Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan, whom he stabbed in a local train near Thane in the late 1970s.

Pandare moved his base to Vikhroli and later to Kanjur Marg before he joined hands with Yeshwant Jadhav. Together, they became a force to reckon with in the Ghatkopar-Chembur areas.

The lean gangster was soon joined by Domnic, Bada Tambi, Ashok Kunte, Kamlakar Adangale, Sanjiva Bhosle and Yeda Bala, his younger brother. He was killed by a former associate on September 26, 1990.

Phone Dada

Phone dada is an associate who uses the phone to threaten targets. It is mostly a small time cheat or goon who is launched into the big league with very little experience in underworld operations. Dawood Ibrahim's gang member Fayeem Machmach is often referred to as a *phone dada.* From a camera assistant during local marriages, he made it big time in the underworld.

Potla (Kidnapping & Murder)

The disappearance of Dawood Ibrahim's key lieutenant Irfan Goga has remained one of the biggest mysteries in Mumbai's underworld. But *'Potla'* or bundling is not very uncommon amongst gangsters.

Goga, considered close to breakaway gangster Abu Salem, disappeared under mysterious circumstance from Dubai, on November 9, 1998.

He went for a drive with Dawood's brother Anis — an unidentified Pakistani national, and never returned.

The car in which Goga and Anis were traveling was found abandoned on a remote Dubai beach. However, investigators drew a blank.

Insiders disclosed Goga was murdered and his body was burried under a palatial bunglow owned by Shoebbhai. The latter was poisoned while serving a jail term in Pakistan later.

The Dubai police detained Anis and 28 others on November 14, 1998 following a complaint by Goga's wife Shaila. The case was not brought to close even to this day.

It is suspected that Goga was kidnapped and murdered at the behest of a Pakistani Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) agent for his alleged involvement in the murder of Nepalese Member of Parliament, Mirza Dilshad Baig, in Kathmandu.

Goga, 37, had apparently double-crossed Dawood Ibrahim and shifted loyalties to Chhota Rajan and Babloo Shrivastava. Prior to Goga's *potla*, the gangster was named in over a dozen cases in Azamgarh and Mumbai, and had escaped the police dragnet for more than a decade.

Pilot

An ace driver or rider is known as 'pilot' in the underworld. Good drivers hold the key to many daring escapes after shootouts.

Popat (Prey)

A *cpopaf* or parrot referes to a prey. When a gangster asks whether *'popat bahar aya kya',* he is actually asking whether the prey has left the office or residence?

Priya Rajput

Born Chandrakala Dhansingh Rajput, Priya lead a gang of desperados and opened fire on Monica Bar at Ghatkopar, in 2002.

Priya began working as a telephone operator before she came close to Chhota Rajan's key associate Ajay Mahadik alias Prince. She was soon drawn to other gangsters like Prakash Pande alias Bunty Pande, Anil Sawant and Eddu.

Priya spent time with Bunty Pande in Bangkok. She was arrested by crime branch officials when she returned to Mumbai, in 2002.

Putta (Monica Bedi's Multiple Passport)

Gangster Abu Salem's girlfriend Monica Bedi could have been released immediately after she was deported from Portugal in 2005. But it was the '''putta* for which she was being prosecuted, though she is now out on bail.

Monica's first genuine passport (B0195737) was issued in Mumbai on August 10, 1999. Her date of birth was given as January 18, 1975, at Hoshiarpur.

But soon Monica applied for a new ''*putta* after she came in contact with fugitive gangster Abu Salem. Her next passport gave her name as Fauzia Usman and her date of birth as September 10, 1976. This time it was issued from Bhopal on June 29, 2001.

Bedi next changed identities when she assumed the name of Sana Malik Kamal (B5802508), a passport which was issued in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, on August 6, 2001.

Next, her name changed to Neha Asif Jafari on a passport issued to her again in Kurnool.

Qurbani (Sacrifice)

Qurbani, is a word synonymous with the D company. It is often used for a chess-like move, when a frontline shooter is sacrificed to gain an advantage. The gang is willing to lose a battle to win a war.

Rafiq Dabbawalla (Tiffin Boy)

Mohammed Sheikh alias Harish Thakur alias Rafiq Dabbawalla, started as a 'Tiffin boy' from Gangawadi near Sanghani Estate, in Ghatkopar.

The former motor mechanic from Jogeshwari soon became a supplier of dabbas or tiffins to detenues and convicts in jail. Rafiq's hunger for extortion and murder was insatiable and it seems he picked them from a connoisseur's menu. Rafiq feasted on these big catches.

The names included Bollywood director Rakesh Roshan, who survived an attempt on his life early in 2001. Milton Plastics director Chiranjeev Vaghani was asked to pay Rs 5 crore ransom for his release. Another prime target was Banglore businessman Vineet Vanchani, whose ticket to freedom was put at Rs. 7crore. Balancing them like trophies, Rafiq had 17 murders to his name, including that of Vikhroli Parksite builder Zailuddin Sheikh alias Zakaullah.

Earlier, Rafiq started as a small-time extortionist in Ghatkopar and surrounding areas, until he met Shamkishore Garigapati, a close associate of Subhash Singh Thakur, who now occupies a seat on death row. His maverick

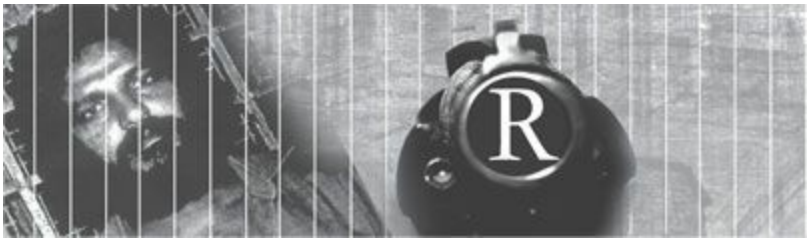
methods and dare devilry piqued Thakur's curiosity and it was not long before the stocky youth was inducted in the gang.

Then, in September 1992, both Thakur and Garigpati were arrested in connection with the sensational JJ Hospital shootout. Rafiq was assigned the task of providing home cooked food to Garigapati, Thakur and other gang members in various jails in the state, which earned him his most palatable title alias *'Dabbawalla'*. But apart from the Dabba business, Rafiq was soon given other "odd jobs" like collecting protection money and even threatening victims.

By 1995, Rafiq graduated to being a shooter. "It was a one man show. "He did all the planning and ensured that the job was executed as per plan," shudders encounter specialist Daya Nayak, a member of the squad which shot Rafiq dead. "Rafiq trusted very few people, which made it extremely difficult to keep track of him" adds Nayak.

Rafiq took on the alias 'Harish Thakur', telling a potential victim he was the younger brother of Subhash Singh Thakur.

By 1999, Rafiq's extortion demands ran into crores-but he had become too greedy. He was killed on June 5, 1999, near the Asha Parekh Hospital in Santacruz (west).



Raja (Friend)

Raja is the favourite word of gangster Chhota Rajan used for endearing his new footsoldiers, to gain their loyalty and trust.

Incidentally, most of the rhetorical comments are meant for arch foe Chhota Shakeel, who is Rajan's eye comes second only to Dawood Ibrahim on the list of traitors of the nation.

"Raja, jo apni maa ka na ho saka, to woh aur kiska kaise ho sakta hain" (If a man is not loyal to his mother (country) how can you trust him?).

In fact, seven of those accused in the 1993 serial blasts have been systematically eliminated by members of the Rajan gang, on the streets of Mumbai.

The key to brainwashing recruits in Chhota Rajan gang is professed patriotism.

Rivals claim Rajan's rhetoric is a sham. '*Betagaddar toh woh hain* (he is the traitor)', they say, referring to Rajan's defection from the D Company in 1993.

Rajan's Bete Nair OP

It was a Saturday morning and there was an uneasy calm in Nasik jail.

Inmates were aware that some gangsters were plotting to terminate Chhota Rajan's key lieutenant inside the prison.

The plot was in fact bizarre. Rajan's associate D K Rao and eight others were moved to Nasik Jail from Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail on November 23, 2002, the day before Om Prakash Singh alias Wilson was murdered.

Singh, also known as OP, was strangled to death in the bathroom by Rao and his associates. Jail officials tried to pass it off as a cardiac arrest.

Jail authorities in Mumbai had ignored an intelligence report suggesting that some Chhota Rajan gangsters were plotting to kill Singh inside the prison. The warning came a month earlier.

The killer squad comprised of Sharad Barkar alias Barkya, Mangesh Parab alias Bal, Chandrakant Khot, Pramod Thorat, Feroz Bashir Khan, Chandu Pujari, Nimesh Shete and Sarfira Nepali. All were undertrials in Mumbai's Arthur Road, a Chhota Rajan stronghold.

Singh was the key link between the Chhota Rajan gang and operatives from the central intelligence agencies in the country. He masterminded a series of vital killings in Mumbai.

Chhota Rajan masterminded the former lieutenant's killing fearing he was a potential threat who could challenge his position after his release from prison. The don was led to believe that the former associate had a large following within the gang.

OP had already incurred Rajan's wrath by supporting another breakaway gangster Hemant Pujari, to form his own gang. There were indications that he too was planning to lead an independent gang after his release in the next two months.

Earlier, Rajan wanted to bump off Hemant Pujari for disobeying his orders. He approached OP to hand him over for execution.

"*Gandu* (foolish) *apna sena ko marta hain"* (It is only a stupid gangster who

gets his own men killed), OP once remarked to Manish, an associate.

Moreover, the possibility that he would gang up with other breakaway gangsters like Guru Satam, Ravi Pujari and Ejaz Lakdawala was bothering Rajan.

Singh was also largely responsible for helping Rajan to establish links with Babloo Shrivastava.

Problems started when Baba Bugga Reddy alias Baba Reddy found himself in the narcotic trade with Santosh Shetty, a key Rajan aide.

Santosh Shetty wanted to follow the Dawood Ibrahim pattern. He felt that gangsters should not have easy access to the don and they should follow the chain of hierarchy.

OP on the other hand, allowed most of the men to talk to Rajan directly. Money was important and sanctions were mostly granted by the don himself.

Rajan's high-profile men in Arthur Road Jail stretched their spending limits from Rs 70,000 to around Rs 1.7 lakh each month in 2000.

The extortion graph had spiralled accordingly to meet expences. Huge amounts came through OP's links with builders and hoteliers in the suburbs.

Shetty in the meantime, was moving up the gangland ladder and was eyeing for the second-in-command post after the death of Rohit Verma in 2000. Santosh, who was also known as Rajesh Madan Sharma, was involved in Rajan's escape from Bangkok hospital after the bloody shootout.

Dreaded hitman Vinod Matkar too like Baba Reddy was considered close to OP. Balu Dokre was also attracted by OP's charisma and intellect.

The reasons are not far to see. OP provided logistic support and the money required for gang operations in Mumbai. The mastermind also had the intelligence and ability to plan, which were essential qualities of a leader.

All this made Rajan insecure. Secretely the boss feared that OP would run his gang and ally with other breakaway gangsters.

OP on the other hand was nurturing the dreams of becoming a politician. He knew many of them and was assured of a ticket to the legislative assembly in Uttar Pradesh.

"Rajan's downfall began with OP's killing. It was one of the biggest blunders in his life," says Manish, a former lieutenant.

OP's writ ran large in numerous beer bars in Mumbai. He held stakes in over a hundred bars that throbbed with music and female dancers.

Singh was the son of a Hindi professor and had a post graduate degree in analytical chemistry, from RJ Jhunjhunwala College in Ghatkopar, north Mumbai. He worked in the quality control department of Mazgoan Docks, a state-owned ship builder.

The turning point in his life came in 1995, when his elder brother, Arun Singh, a professor was killed by members of the Amar Naik gang outside the college for testifying against the gangsters in a case.

This incident changed his life. He left the job and got into the land business in Vasai in Thane district and had over a dozen cases of extortion against him. He soon rose up the gangland ladder to become an important schemer of the Chhota Rajan gang.

Rajanwadi (Division Within Rajan Gang)

Chhota Rajan aides Vicky Malhotra alias Vishal Vikrant and Farid Tanasha — the two men who had hatched a plot to kill rival Dawood Ibrahim during his daughter's marriage (2005) got together to assault another members of their own gang. Yusuf Bachkana, their target was to get admitted to Arthur Road jail's hospital in August 2005.

Earlier, the duo accused another gang member D K Rao of treachery. Rao, Rajan's main recruiter in the jail, was seen rubbing shoulders with rival gangster Dawood's brother Iqbal Kaskar in the jail. Rao also happens to be Bachkana's mentor, which is why he intervened.

'Aaj kal jail me Rajanwadi chal raha hain," remarked rival gangster Mohammed Ethesysham. What he meant is that there is division within the Rajan gang.

Malhotra's aggressive behaviour could be attributed to his arrest by the Mumbai Crime Branch-the result of a botched operation and alleged infighting within various law- enforcement agencies.

Malhotra and Tanashah were picked up in New Delhi on July 11, 2006, while they were working on what would have been a virtual suicide mission to ambush and kill Dawood in Pakistan or Dubai.

Malhotra's rant may not be entirely without reasons. Both Tanashah and he were active in New Delhi, West Bengal and Nepal and some of the tasks they were assigned was by a central government intelligence agency.

There are reasons to suspect that even the botched plot to bump off Dawood was hatched by the Indian Intelligence. Malhotra and Tanashah were in the company of a senior intelligence officer when a special squad from Mumbai took them by surprise in Delhi.

It seems the central intelligence agencies had been kept in the dark about the Mumbai Crime Branch's plan to arrest the two shooters, an all too common story of a lack of co-ordination between the central and state agencies.

Raju Batatiya

Gangster Arun Gawli's key associate Raju Batatiya was known in the upper echelons of Mumbai's underworld for two things: Killing Dawood Ibrahim's brother-in-law Ibrahim Parkar and his mischief.

Rama Naik (The Godfather Who Groomed A Generation Of Gangsters).

In their shadowy past, all of Mumbai's mafia chieftains shared a common

cradle, rocked by Mumbai's original Godfather: Rama Naik.

Take the case of Arun Gawli — Naik was not only his senior at the Municipal School at Bakri Adda in Byculla, but his mentor as well. Chhota Rajan was under the tutelage of Naik for three years between 1985 and 1988, at Lal vita Chawl.

Even as Rama Naik was calling the shots, Dawood Ibrahim was a small-time goon from Pakmodia Street in Dongri. He sought help from Naik's 'Byculla Company' after crossing swords with the Pathan gang led by Amirzada and Samad Khan. Dawood was a regular visitor to the Chawls after Amirzada had shot dead Dawood's brother Shabir near Siddhivinayak Temple in 1981, recalled a member of the Rama Naik family.

Naik's story began in the dark and dusty by - lanes of Byculla. The narrow alleys of X-lane, Peon Chawl, Lal Vita Chawl, Parsi Chawl and Dagdi Chawl witnessed most of the action- from the late 1970s till 1988. From thuggery and territorial disputes, the gangs graduated to killings.

"Raiding a rival gangster's hideout or stabbing him would amount to taking control of the matka and liquor dens in the area. There were not many killings and the emphasis was to scare the adversary into submission in those days," recalls a resident of X lane at Byculla.

The use of firearms became frequent in Mumbai's gangster after Dawood presented Rama Naik, Resham and Chhota Rajan with four revolvers after the killing of Samad Khan.

Naik, who began as a *matka* den operator in the 70s, soon masterminded contract killings. A new pattern of killings emerged as Rama Naik and his associates would ambush his enemies and escape in cars. He was killed in Chembur on July 21, 1988. Dawood had masterminded the godfather's murder through Chhota Rajan, the man who helped him set up his empire.

Ramya Butler

Ramesh Surve, alias Ramya Butler was soon promoted to the rank of a shooter with the killing of Dilawar Antulay at Goregoan. Mumbai police had placed him on the 'most wanted' list since 1992, when he was arrested for the last time. Surve had almost gone underground for five years when the police squad caught up with him. He and two other members of his gang were killed in an encounter by a squad led by Assistant Police Inspectors Avinash Sawant and Bhushan Belnekar, on March 3, 2001.

Razak Kashmiri

Chhota Rajan's key associate Razak Kashmiri had virtually overrun rival Chhota Shakeel's own stronghold in south Mumbai by eliminating seven of his associates in a period of less than two years.

He took on Shakeel's might in Dongri, Pydhonie and JJ Hospital and avenged the killings of his associates by gunning down seven of Shakeel's associates.

Kashmiri later joined hands with the Pydhonie — based gangster Hussein Vastara to continue his attacks on Shakeel's men in south Mumbai, according to police sources.

Kashmiri used to sell soft drinks in the streets of Dongri when he came in touch with Shakeel's henchman Feroz Konkani. The duo were later hired to provide protection to a builder in Tardeo. He was later joined by another gangster Stanley Fernandes, from Vikhroli Park Site in north Mumbai. Kashmiri was killed in an encounter on October 27, 1998.

Roti

Because of the secrecy and danger involved in their work, intelligence officials too use secret codes. *'Roti'* is used to denote compact discs, which are often dispatched through courier. Operatives usually exchange messages like '*rotis* are on the way.' It actually means the consignment is on the way. Because a CD is flat and round it is called a *roti.*

Rajji Mehendi

Rajji Mehendi, considered a Dawood Ibrahim aide, was killed by members of the Byculla Company at Kala Nagar junction, at Bandra east, in 1991.

Tanya Koli, Mohan Mali, Ganesh Bhosle, Namdeo Patil, Vijay Tandel and Babya Adilkar intercepted the target's car and opened fire from AK 47 rifles. Koli was injured in the exchange of fire.

It was a clear case of revenge killing.

Rampuri (A Type Of Knife)

In the underworld, the transition from the *Rampuri* to firearms can be traced to the late 1990s. Earlier, these knives were commonly used for attacking adversaries.

Killings were few and victims often survived the attacks. The Rampuri was gradually phased out and replaced by the country made revolver, *katta.* A few years later, AK 47 assault rifles were added to the arsenal.

Reel To Real (Twist In 'Purana Mandir' Tale)

Mohammed Iqbal Sheikh, alias Purana Mandir. While Sheikh made a living from theft, a Bollywood director used the diabolic seven-foot-eight-inch giant in one of his movies, the Ramsay horror flick, *Purana Mandir,* which he also adopted as an alias. The film, in which Sheikh starred opposite bodybuilder Hemant Birje in the 1980s, was a hit. So was Sheikh's fiery reputation of the underworld.

Alas, Sheikh couldn't tell the difference between a Bollywood script and reality. The story goes that he was gunned down in a bloody encounter with the police squad under Assistant Commissioner of Police, Raamakanat Padval, near Swastik Mill at Chembur on April 4, 2001.

Refrees Can Kill

The police took time to understand the tapped conversation between Dawood Ibrahim's lieutenant Mohammed Ali Kanjara and his men *'Refree se bach ke rehna'*. Refree they understood meant an 'encounter specialist'.

Robber Gang

Robber Gangs are rarely trusted. The word 'Robber' is quite demeaning in Mumbai underworld.

But robber-turned — shooter Arun Mahajan's daredevil methods to achieve his goals set a trend in Mumbai's underworld.

Arun Mahajan alias Itliya, met Jaggu Shetty alias Fakira and Rohit Verma, when all three of them were serving prison terms at the Thane jail around 1995. The Verma-Mahajan duo were soon involved in some sensational murders like the murder of East West Airlines Managing Director Thakkiyudin Wahid, hotelier-builder DN Ghosh and the Patel brothers from Mira Road named in the JJ Hospital shootout case. The series of shootouts in fact turned the underworld equation in favour of Rajan for quite sometime.

Prior to Mahajan's rise, Rajan rarely trusted robbers. He relied mostly on his shooters like Danny, Matya, Divakar Churi and Sanjay Ruggad. Mahajan set the trend for robbers like Vinod Matkar, who later became a shooter and was named in over 20 murder cases in the city. The list is long with robbers like D K Rao, Prashant Kundappa Kotta alias Prashant Kalli and Nitesh Kasare making it to the top among gangsters in the underworld. Mahajan's rise was fast once he was in the team, which killed Wahid near his office at Bandra west, in 1995. He was involved in no less than 14 murders, police sources inform.

Rohit Verma (Babu Pandey)

Born Babbu Pandey, Verma was first a petty thief operating in Vakola. He joined the big league after gangster Matya inducted him into Chhota Rajan's gang. Soon he found himself in the company of other thieves like Vinod Matkar, Jaggu Shetty alias Fakira and D K Rao. Verma made it to the upper echelons of Mumbai's underworld when he was identified as one of the key suspects in the murder of Takkiuddin Wahid (head of East-West Airline) at Bandra, in 1995.

Verma slipped out of Mumbai to join his mentor Chhota Rajan, when the don shifted his base to South East Asia in the mid-1990s. However, Rajan and Verma were taken by surprise when a six-member-killer-squad lead by Munna Jingada barged into their first floor apartment in Bangkok on September 26, 2000 and sprayed the apartment with bullets. Verma succumbed to his injuries soon after. And he had not been asleep at the time of the attack.

Roti Key Tukde (Crumbs Of Bread)

The term '*roti ke tukde'* is used when a gangster wants to share his booty. When he says '*char tukde'* or four crumbs, it actually means money should be divided into four shares.

Sabar (Patience)

"Hum ko sabar karne ki bahut aadat hain. Bahut sabar kar sakte hain (we are known for patiently waiting before a kill)," Dawood Ibrahim associate Fayeem Machmach was heard warning his target.

"Tere koyaad hain hum ne Rupam wale ko kaise mara(Do you remember how we killed the owner of Rupam Stores) — Owner Bharat Shah was murdered near Crawford Market in 1998.

"He thought he was safe because his shop is close to the police headquarters. He thought he was safe, with the police protection provided to him."

"Six months passed and our man thought we had forgotten everything about him. He let the police escort be withdrawn. Our gunmen shot the fool.

My men are watching you. However, we will not kill you. We will kill your friend. You are going to pay the money. How can we kill you?.

"Darwae ka ghanti bajaun kya?" (Shall my men ring your doorbell now?) Machmach asked.

Samad Khan (Nephew Of Karim Lala)

Pathan don Samad Khan and his associates Baba Khan, Mallad Khan, Jangrez, Karim and Sheru, were part of another deadly team. Killed on

January 1, 1993.

Salim Haddi

Salim Haddi was named *'Haddi* (bone) because of his large Adam's apple. He was close to Abu Salem and named in the murder of builder Mohan Kukreja, in Chembur. Salem was then working for Dawood Ibrahim. Salim Haddi was killed in an encounter near Millat Nagar in Jogeswari, with associate and former policeman Rajesh Igwe, on November 27, 1995.

Salim Kuttanellur (Salim Kutta)

Salim Kuttanellur was nicknamed '*Kutta* (dog) because of his teeth, which resembled a dog's. He shot into the headlines after his role in landing arms and explosives along the Konkan coast, before the serial blasts of 1993 was proved.

Considered close to smuggler Mohammed Dossa as well as Tiger Memon and Dawood Ibrahim.

Salim Passport

Imagine calling your travel agent 'Passport'. Khan helped Dawood Ibrahim with his travel documents, and the name just stuck. Mohammed Salim Kasim Ali alias Passport was named as an accused in the serial bomb blasts of 1993, and was later killed in a shootout at Bhendi Bazaar near JJ Hospital, on May 11, 1998.

Salim Talwar

He was a booth capturer in a poll in Dongri, in 1985. His chosen weapon to frighten polling officials and voters was a *talwar* (sword). He was later

considered close to Dawood.

Salim Kurla

This Salim got his name from his residence as he lived in Kurla, a Northern suburb. Bismilla Khan alias Kurla started as a small-time employee in Nagpada before joining hands with Dawood's younger brother, Noora.

He soon opened a film company under the banner of Shabnam Arts International. Kurla was accused of sending few men to Pakistan for military training and was charged in the 1993 bomb blasts case. He was shot dead by the Chhota Rajan gang at Oshiwara on April 21, 1998.

Saja Ke Dena (Hand Over On A Platter)

Beautiful Ashrafbi's husband Mehmood Kalia, was a member of the Pathan gang, which was involved in the murder of Dawood Ibrahim's elder brother Shabir, near Prabhadevi in 1981.

Tall, dark and well-built, Kalia soon became the de-facto leader of the gang after members like Samad Khan and Amirzada were killed in separate shootouts in the city.

Another key member Alamzeb was also killed while in exile at Ahmedabad, in Gujarat. The gang was virtually decimated by Dawood's men.

Dawood contacted Kalia saying that he was willing to put aside the bad blood between them and offered him a free ticket to Dubai in what seemed like a move to convince him to switch loyalty.

Kalia's return ticket was booked via New Delhi. Dawood had gained the burly shooter's confidence by convincing him that Mumbai's international airport was under tight surveillance and that it wasn't safe for him to land there.

Kalia was sponsored a free shopping spree in Dubai, during his stint there. He flew into Mumbai on a domestic flight from New Delhi.

On his arrival he was killed just outside the domestic airport at Santacruz by a team of crime branch officers headed by E Amolik.

Kalia's wife Asharfibi was convinced that Dawood had masterminded her husband's killing. She wanted to avenge his death.

The good-looking woman tried approaching several rival gangsters for help, but failed in her initial attempt.

Finally she met Arun Gawli's younger brother Kishore Gulab Gawli alias Papa. Taken up by her beauty, the impulsive youth began to challenge Dawood. He was killed at Mahim on February 22, 1990.

Papa's murder led to another round of killings and a major rift between Gawli and Dawood Ibrahim.

Satra (17)

''*Satra* in underworld lingo is a Marwari businessman. A large number of Marwari seths or dealers were into the gold business in and around Dongri, Shuklaji Street and Grant Road, since the early 1950s. They were witnesses to the rise and fall of many gangs in the area. A few are even known to have rubbed shoulders with the underworld.

Sauda Fok (No Payment)

Mumbai's underworld is indirectly involved with bookies and many are known to seek protection from them during cricket matches.

Some of the gangsters suffer huge losses in the betting business they controlled themselves. The easiest way out is to order a *sauda fok,* in which case, payments are not honoured.

Bookies caught in the crossfire often approach rival gangsters to help them recover the money.

Secret Bunkers (Of Dagdi Chawl)

Dagdi Chawl was known for secret bunkers dug and built within the walls of the compound. Some of the cavities were even located under tiles in some of the kitchens.

Most gangsters in Dagdi Chawl hid themselves in these bunkers during police raids. It took the police a long time to trace some of these hidden hideouts.

Arun Gawli was arrested during one of Mumbai Crime Branch's raids on July 19, 1990. He was found hiding in the cavity of his bed.

The police recovered an automatic carbine during the raid. Associates Dilip Kulkarni, Neelam Walawalkar, Sonu Walawalkar, Raja Jadhav, Shakar Telli and Tanya Koli were rounded up during the combing operation.

In an another Anti Terrorist Squad raid led by A A Khan, the police found Bandya Adilkar, Namdeo Patil, Keshav Utchil alias Anna and Ganesh Bhosle alias Vakil in another bunker. The officers impounded two automatic weapons, four revolvers and 12 hand grenades from another bunker in the vicinity.

Shahrukh

An ace shooter is called an artist in the underworld. If the shooter is handsome sometimes he is also referred as 'Shahrukh'. These names are used to mislead snoopy policemen.

Shambo! Shambo!

Members of the Arun Gawli gang greeted each other with the words *'Shambo, Shambo'*. The word *shambo* is often used to refer to Lord Shiva's name. It is also a 'password' among members of the inner circle.

Gawli is an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva.

These words were also used when members of Gawli's political wing, the Akhil Bhartiya Sena met, many while seeking financial assistance at Dagdi Chawl.

Shambo literally means abode of peace. The meaning sometimes comes as a surprise to many who associate Lord Shiva only with death and destruction.

In the present context, *Shambo* means supremacy and even death.

The word stuck became popular with encounter specialists like Avinash Sawant and Hemant Desai, who were tracking members of the Gawli gang for a long time.

Shashikant Sagwekar (Chinka Babu)

Shashikant Sagwekar was a key member of the Ashwin Naik gang. Most of his targets were businessmen and hoteliers from Pydhonie, in south Mumbai.

Chinka Babu became a key underworld figure with the murder of Bharat Angre, a member of the Mayekar gang that was active in Kalbadevi. He later crossed swords with local goon Dashrat Rahane, who was killed on October 19, 1990.

Police records indicate that Sagwekar was named in at least 15 murders between 1991 and 1994. He was killed in a police encounter in 1999.

Shashi Rasam (King Cobra)

Son of a police constable, Shashi Ambaji Rasam rose to become one of the most dreaded gangsters in central Mumbai.

Shashi was preparing to become a police officer when, as a young lad, he assaulted a laundry owner. Shashi was getting late for a function at his school and got angry when he found his uniform was not ironed.

The impulsive youth was booked for the offence. It was also the turning point of his life and he began hating policemen.

Shashi gave up his job as a clerk in Podar Mills and began working for Baban Amrute, a local goon from Mumbai Central. This was quickly followed by street fights and the murder of rival gangster Mahadev Mane, in 1968.

Shashi clashed with Bollywood actor Vinod Khanna over kite flying near August Kranti Maidan in Central Mumbai, in 1971. But they soon became friends.

Strikingly handsome, Shashi became so aggressive that he attacked police inspector Padval Patil with a *kukri* (a sharp weapon). Officials did not waste time and he was booked under MISA.

Shashi took to bootlegging at Malam Market near Mumbai Central railway station after he was released from jail, in 1972. An income of around Rs 2,000 a day allowed him to maintain a jeep and other vehicles.

Shashi once intercepted a contraband laden truck on Napean Sea road and reported the matter to the police. This was the beginning of his war with the smuggling syndicates led by Haji Mastan, Karim Lala and Vardarajan Mudaliar.

It was not long before the police charged him with forming the Cobra Gang. This was because his friend and associates had tattoos of a hooded snake on their forearms. "He was a one man army. He ensured that his friend did not get involved in his fights. He was a *swadeshi* (indigenous) don: never got involved in smuggling or extortion," recalls R Sawant, a friend.

Shashi's friendship with gangster Kundan Dubey led to his downfall. He even

clashed with Rama Naik's Byculla Company.

On August 25, 1978, Shashi was stabbed to death on the Mumbai Central bridge by Rama Naik's henchmen Awad Rego and Kalia Dhanraj.

Shivaji Gawde (Shiva)

Gawde was inducted to collect protection money from vendors on behalf of the nearby Dagdi Chawl. Soon he doubled up as a skilled driver, supplying illicit liquor in the Mumbai Central area. Later, he began working as Chhota Shakeel's right-hand-man in Mumbai — Zahoor Makanda operating from Dongri. Makanda was looking after D-Company's network in Mumbai. Gawde later killed Bandivedekar at Chandgad near Nasik. Joined hands with Chhota Rajan's lieutenant Balu Dokre in Arthur Road jail.

Shopping Kar Le Beta (Buy What You Want Son)

'Pocket money' is used to lure new recruits into the gang. It could even be a collegian and the amount could be as low as Rs. 5,000.

The payoff acts like a rat trap. Once in, there is no looking back for the recruit. He is soon assigned petty jobs like watching or passing weapons.

A little experience and the recruit is promoted to the rank of a shooter. After a successful assignment, the shooter gradually moves up the gangland ladder.

Beta (son) is a common term of endearment for future foot soldiers. The wannabe gangster gives in and feels respected.

Sir (Samy Sir)

Srinivas Swaminathan also known as Samy Sir, was the man who taught etiquette and English to members of the Chhota Rajan gang.

Imagine Chhota Rajan speaking fluent English. It must have been difficult coaching the standard V dropout from a municipal school in Tilak Nagar, Chembur.

Swaminathan alias Samy, an electrical engineer from the nearby Ghatla village in Chembur, was associated with Chhota Rajan for more than two decades.

Rajan's key associate and school mate, Farid Tanashah, also owes his English speaking skills to Samy Sir.

Gangsters like Balu Dokre and Bharat Nepali also took lessons in English and Western culture from Samy Sir when they were hiding in South East Asia. These proved useful during their sojourns in Europe.

Swaminathan himself enjoyed a lavish lifestyle, shuttling regularly between Singapore, Hong Kong and Mumbai. He ran a chain of hotels in South East Asia.

Swaminathan was gunned down near Wagle Estate in Thane in 2004. It is suspected he double-crossed Rajan.

Slums

By late 1970s, the underworld was beginning to feed on the growth of the slums, using them to find new recruits and wriggle into city politics.

The explosive growth of slums coincided with the alarming rise in organized crime in the suburbs. Builders were using motley gangs to clear settlements for the construction of buildings.

In the sleepy Kanjur Marg village, the slum population rose by 30,000 in just two years. Slumlord Nanji Shah clashed with local goon Ashok Joshi. Their rivalry claimed 20 lives in less than three years, including Shah's.

Ashok Joshi was soon seen with many national political leaders. Shiv Sena

municipal councilor Khim Bahadur Thapa and his adversaries Avdooth Bonde and Vilas Mane held sway over large slum colonies in Bhandup west.

Huts were built and sold for anything between Rs 5,000 and Rs 20,000. The money went to the gangs who protected the slumlords.

Tamil don Vardharajan Mudaliar alias Vardhabhai encouraged goons to grab collector's land in Dharavi and Koliwada areas. In his fiefdom, he protected small-time bootleggers and looked after their marketing and distribution as though they were corporates.

Abdul Majid Abdulla Patel, better known as Yusuf Patel, found ways of going around the Urban Land Ceiling Act. He was arrested during the Emergency and spent 32 months in jail.

Square-Feet Bhai (Local Hoodlum)

A local goon is also known as a '*square feet bhai'*. This refers to a ringleader who rarely moves out of his neighbourhood and mostly thrives on measly protection money from small-time businessmen of the area.

He is often a local hoodlum, without an affiliation to any major gang.

A *square feet bhai* rakes in his moolah from local *matka* operators, gambling dens and illegal constructions in the area. He also doubles up as an informer and sometimes witness, in a critical case.

He avoids confrontation with larger gangs seeking a bigger slice of mafia income. He is satisfied with what he gets.

Straight (Knife)

When a gangster says '*Straightguma diya'* he actually means he has stabbed somebody.

The murder of the Cobra gang leader launched the Byculla Company into the upper echelons of Mumbai's underworld.

It was around midnight when flamboyant Shashi Rasam alighted from a taxi near Bombay Central railway station.

He was buying groundnuts when he suddenly felt the sharp edge of a 'straight' in his stomach. Before he could even look up he was stabbed several times in his torso. The Nagpada police later arrested Rama Naik, Vilas Chougule, Vilas Sawant and Chhota Babu, in connection with the murder.

Rasam had not noticed Rama Naik and his associates trailing him in a taxi after he parted ways with one Pushpa in X Lane, not far from Byculla station. They preferred to wait and follow Rasam after Pushpa's mother came to see him off.

After the attack, Rasam barely managed to stagger into a nearby railway hospital. A few hours later he succumbed to his injuries.

Strugglers

"*Shot dikha dunga. Main ab independent hoon. Mujhe paise chahiye"* (I will ask my goons to open fire. I am idependent now and I want money), breakway gangster Ravi Pujari told a clearing agent at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.

And Pujari is not alone. Kumar Pillai of the Ashwin Naik gang, Ejaz Lakdawala another Chhota Rajan breakaway man is in the fray to procure the lion's share from Mumbai's underworld.

Hemant Pujari, another breakaway man from the Rajan gang is also making extortion calls to various people in Mumbai. Breakaway gangsters are obviously reviving. But their sources are outdated and they are lacking experienced 'handlers', who can guide frontline shooters. They have yet to make a major impact for their presence to be felt in the metropolis.

Subash Singh Thakur

Subash Singh still remains an enigma in Mumbai's under-world. His twice-a-day workout in his prison cell could put a budding boxer to shame.

In 1982, he survived six bullets from a police squad led by Fateh Singh Gaikwad, now an Assistant Commissioner of Police, in Maharashtra.

The six-foot plus gangster, weighs more than 100 kgs and is silent like a hermit.

Sporting a long beard, he is also known as Subashbhai and is one of the few gangsters who avails the jail '*bhatta* or allowance, a meager lifestyle for a man who has access to a few crore rupees.

Some senior politicians and ministers from Ulhasnagar are known to be his well-wishers. He does not have any understudies, but rival dons are always willing to join hands with him despite the fact that he is serving a life sentence.

Subash Singh began under the tutelage of Anthony Veeraswamy alias Kalia Anthony. The gang initially began with stealing expensive car audio systems in the Khar area of Mumbai.

He was named in the murders of Satyavan Panchal, Abbas, John, Ayub, Ramesh Bhogle and smuggler Bakshi in 1989.

Subash Singh teamed up with Sunil Sawant in the J J Hospital shootout in 1992. He also executed the killing of five Chhota Rajan gangsters in Nepal the following year.

Sunil Sawant (Sautya)

Sautya was a key member of Dawood Ibrahim's gang. He was involved in over a dozen murders in Mumbai, prominent among them being the killing of Ashok Joshi and four others at Panvel, on December 3, 1988. He was also the

main shooter in the J J Hospital shootout.

The massive gangster lived in Bhootachi Wadi, near Girgaum around 1984. He sought the help of Rama Naik and Arun Gawli after crossing swords with a goon at Girgaum.

Sautya was killed with Uttam Dhoipode, Vilas Jadhav and Abdul Kadir outside a hotel at Dubai in 1995 in retaliation for his involvement in the killing of five Chhota Rajan henchmen in Nepal.

Supari (Contract Killing)

Supari or contract killing still remains the buzzword, decades after it first entered the mafia parlance. It is usually an offer or a contract to kill or stab an adversary. The same could be accepted or rejected. Huge amounts are exchanged after the supari is accepted.

Rama Naik, the godfather, who groomed a generation of gangsters, from his Lal Vite Ke Chawl near Byculla forged an alliance with gangsters from Tilak Nagar headed by Rajan Mahadeo Nair alias Bada Rajan. Chhota Rajan was then a mere understudy.

Dawood Ibrahim was a regular visitor to Rama's ground floor residence. He pleaded with Naik to help him avenge his brother Shabir's death.

Nair finally accepted the '*Supari*. But who would get the job done? It had to be somebody new and ignorant about Pathan Amirzada's power.

He zeroed in on an unemployed youth David Pardesi, who had approached Bada Rajan for work through an autorickshaw driver Amar Khodgoankar, just a few weeks before.

"Beta ek bahut bada kaam hain (son there is a significant task). Are you interested?" Rajan asked Pardesi.

"Haan Bhai" (yes), replied Pardesi.

Pardesi was offered Rs 5 lakh, and promised more money after the job was completed.

Underworld don Vardharajan Mudaliar alias Vardhabhai despised the idea of accepting money to finish-off an adversary. "Tu *mera beta jaisa hain. Yeh kaam mat le Dawood tuje marva dega*." (You are like my son. Don't accept the money. Dawood will get you killed), Vardhabhai apparently warned Bada Rajan.

"Rajan aides spent a few days working on the plan," says K Singh, a former associate of Rajan from Tilak Nagar, referring to the neat execution at the Sessions Court, in 1983.

Sadiq Kalia

Enigmatic Sadiq Ismail Jalwar, alias Sadiq kalia, alias Baba Raju, alias Booth, or Narsimah's rise in the world of crime was mysterious after he broke away from his former mentor, Arun Gawli in 1995.

His next move was to join hands with rival gang lord Chhota Shakeel. But how would Shakeel trust the man, who was close to his rival Arun Gawli? Kalia was asked to finish off his brother-in-law at Dongri in the next 30 days. His loyalty was established after Kalia accomplished the task and there was no looking back for the youth from Jhoola Maidan, Agripada, near Mumbai Central.

Sadiq and his brother Arif were also involved in the killing of Kaushal Raj Jain and former Custom's Inspector Farook Batatawala. He spread terror among members of the Chhota Rajan gang by killing six associates in less than six months.

A squad comprising of Police Inspector Pradeep Sharma, Arun Borude and PSI Daya Nayak killed him on December 12, 1999.

Saman (Gun)

Notorious gangster Mehdi Imran began scheming his escape and he needed a '*Saman'* to scare off the police.

The top aide of Ali Budesh soon found trusted lieutenants in inmates Shabbir Hussein Sheikh alias Matim, Mohammed Umer Patki alias Javed and Yusuf Hasan alias Yusuf Takla.

A plot was hatched for Mehdi's escape from jail. Shabbir, Javed and Yusuf continued to visit Mehdi even after they were released on bail and the authorities at the jail soon got used to see the trio bringing fruits for Mehdi, sometimes in wide variety.

Little were they aware that the love and care showered on Mehdi was in fact, part of a much larger, sinister plot for his escape. The gang launched the escape operation on March 27, 2000, by stealing a Yamaha motorcycle from the Dongri area of south Mumbai. The following day, a huge watermelon was purchased from a fruit vendor near Null Bazar. With the precision of a plastic surgeon, Yusuf Takla made a deep incision in the watermelon and concealed in it, a *Saman* (Gun) wrapped in a black polythene bag. The piece of the fruit that had been cut out was replaced like a part of a jigsaw puzzle, informs Senior Inspector, Jayant Sarmokadam. The following day, the three men were at the entrance of Arthur Road Prison with the watermelon, waiting for Mehdi's return from the Sessions Court, where he had been taken for a hearing.

As soon as the gangster alighted form the police van, he was presented the watermelon, right under the watchful eyes of the escorting policemen. Mehdi soon went into his cell, without arousing any suspicion.

On March 31, 2000, Mehdi alias Dilawar was to be escorted to Mazgaon Court. Seizing the opportunity, the stocky shooter requested the escort party to take him to the court's canteen at around 2.30 pm.

After a quick *misal pav* and *chai*, Mehdi paid the bill even as one constable, Himmat Adhav, held his right hand. The policemen were in for a surprise when the undertrial wrenched his wrist away and pulled a revolver tucked under his shirt.

Mehdi fired one round in the air to scare off the policemen before fleeing towards the gate. Within seconds, Mehdi jumped on the Yamaha motorcycle behind Shabbir, fired another round and zoomed off in the direction of Dockyard Road. The vehicle was later found abandoned near Wadala Road railway station

Sayeed Batla

Kingpin Haji Mastan's office door opened and in strode athletic Sayed Batla. The short gangster swung his legs on the table and stared into the eyes of the ageing don.

"*Batla kise ka be Gulam nahin hai ki uske gale me patta dal do*," (Batla is not your slave that you can tie him to a leash), remarked the daredevil from Dongri before storming out of the office.

It was the mid-1970s and Haji Mastan, having heard of Batla's dare-devilery, wanted the gangster to work for him. Working with the don would mean safeguarding his business interests in the area and preventing the boss from enemy attacks.

Mastan's fears were not unfounded. Batla had actually struck terror in Dongri and the adjoining areas and instilled fear in Dawood Ibrahim and his elder brother, Shabir.

Mastan hired the Dawood-Shabir duo to recover money from businessmen in the area and also to ensure that his consignments were safely delivered to his clients. The two brothers were no match for Batla.

Shrikant (The Mama/Fool)

Shrikant Desai got the nickname 'Mama'. In 1985, elusive Juhu-based rival John was on Chhota Nair's hit list, as well as that of Rajan's mentor Rajan Nair, alias Bada Rajan.

A clutch of gangsters including Bada Rajan, Chhota Rajan, Anil Parab, Danny and Shrikant Desai hatched a plot to murder John, near his residence.

In the next few minutes John was lying in a pool of blood with multiple stab wounds. As John's supporters rushed to the spot, the killers beat a hasty retreat. The six feet tall Desai was seen heading towards Juhu beach, which would have been suicidal. Bada Rajan yelled, *"Arrey Mama, kahaan bhagta hai?"* (Fool where are you heading?) The name stuck. Later, the Gujarati grew to be one of Rajan's most trusted henchmen, controlling the cargo areas around Sahar airport.

On February 3, 1993, Senior Inspector Pradeep Sharma and his erstwhile buddy partner Vijay Salaskar, got their man in an encounter at Dindoshi, Malad.

Ravi Pujari took over the reins of Mama's operations.

Sikh Duo

Kulvinder Singh Benal, a Sikh from Andheri east, joined hands with Gurcharan Singh alias Mikky, the small-time college don.

The duo were students of a local college. It was not long before they came in contact with Kaniya, a key member of the Chhota Rajan gang, in Andheri.

The formidable Sikhs killed Anwar in an apartment at Mira Road and his body was dumped in a telephone booth. After that, there was no looking back for the two. A brief stint in jail saw Mikky and Benal fall through with Rajan and they joined hands with rival Chhota Shakeel.

The college drop out soon became Shakeel's points man in South East Asia and was assigned the task of eliminating Ejaz Lakdawala in Bangkok, on May 25 last year 2003.

Police suspect Mikky — Benal duo could be shuttling between Punjab and countries in South East Asia.

Six Mar De

When a gangster is told *'four mar dena'* he is being asked to scare the victim so that he pays up. When Dawood lieutenant Mohammed Kanjari instructed his men *'six mar de'* it meant the target was to me murdered.

Subhash Makadwala

Subash Makadwala alias Subash Kunchikurve, was one of Dawood Ibrahim's most dreaded shooters, named in more than 30 killings in the Northern suburbs of Mumbai. Born Subhash Kunchikurve, he was from the Makadwala tribe of monkey-charmers near Sholapur.

All was well till local goon Prabhakar Jadhav became involved in an ugly scene with Vinod Mohite's sister. Mohite was Makadwala's childhood friend. Matters came to a head when Mohite's sister set herself ablaze over the issue. The group of friends swore to teach Jadhav a lesson and approached Anil Parab, who had broken away from the Ashok Joshi gang, at Kanjur marg.

Parab shared his experiences with the group, resulting in Jadhav's murder after he was stabbed 72 times.

After this incident, in around 1988-89, a new gang was formed and Makadwala became its leader. Makadwala became known in the underworld after he was named in the killings of Krishna Pillai, Lal Singh Chauhan and Ashok Joshi, known toughies in the suburbs.

Police claimed Makadwala was always armed with an AK 56 assault rifle and a .38 caliber revolver.

Makadwala was killed on May 6, 1993, in an encounter near Amrut Nagar in Ghatkopar, in north Mumbai.

Sunil Asolkar

Sunil Asolkar, 32, a close associate of gangster Suresh Manchekar, was handling operations in the area between Thane and Kalyan after his mentor was arrested under TADA.

Chintaman Zaukar alias Chintya, and Kalyamani intiated Asolkar to crime in around 1988. As a schoolboy, Zaukar's power in and around Naidu Colony, a lower-middle class locality at Ghatkopar abutting Mumbai's Eastern Express highway, influenced him.

Asolkar learnt his early lessons in crime when Suresh Manchekar and Guru Satam had gone underground and were living at Zaukar's hideout, at nearby Pant Nagar.

According to police records, Asolkar was named in the murder of Laxman Bhai at Nhava Sheva, Suresh Kini at Wada, Keshu and Prafful Keni at Manpada in Thane. Sunil Jadhav's murder at Kalyan were among some of his targets. Asolkar was killed in an encounter on October 3,1998.

Sunil Ghate (Gawli's First Civic Candidate)

Arun Gawli's frontline lieutenant Sunil Ghate - an Akhil Bhartiya Sena candidate from Ward Number 28, became the party's first municipal corporator.

Incidentally, Ghate is also the first gangster to surrender before a magistrate, fearing he would be killed in an encounter. He presented himself before the court a day after his key associate Sada Pawle alias Mama, was eliminated on September 26, 1997.

Ghate, like his mentor Gawli, was a mill-worker before getting on the wrong side of the law. They lost their jobs in 1977 and the duo were looking for alternative jobs.

Ghate and Gawli were arrested under the provisions of TADA in 1990. While

Ghate was set free within three years, the latter was detained till 1997.

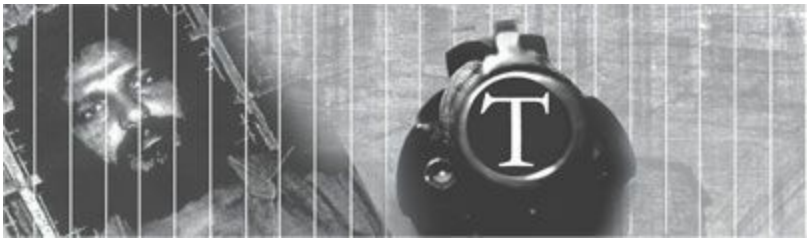
Gawli assumed the mantle of the Byculla Company after the death of Rama Naik and Ghate was content to remain a trusted neighbour and frontline lieutenant of the gang.

Sunny Dancer

Tall, dark and handsome, Virendra Singh Janaksingh Verma could have easily been a proud soldier of the Indian armed forces, but for his twinkle toes. His passion for dancing earned him the title of 'Sunny Dancer' and a position on the most wanted list of criminals in Mumbai.

"It was by chance that we intercepted Sunny at Mulund checknaka in 1996. He confessed to over 55 robberies," recalls Assistant Police Inspector, Rajan Vanmane, who was part of the team, which nabbed Sunny. He was good-looking and seemed very polished and could even speak fluent English" he adds.

"In fact during interrogation Sunny had confessed to the robbery at actor Ajay Devgan's house." Devgan's revolver was also found among the items recovered from Sunny, Vanmane says. Sunny had apparently broken into the star's house at Santacruz and even stolen Rs. 2.5 lakh while the actor was out of the city on a shooting assignment.



Tanya Koli

September 9, 1993. A Nagpur bound long distance train ground to a halt at Kalyan railway station. Three armed policemen escorting Arun Gawli's trusted lieutenant Tanya Koli, stepped out of the compartment, leaving the gangster alone. In the next few seconds, Amar Naik and his associates barged into the compartment, fired at Koli and escaped. The policemen returned and found Koli in a pool of blood.

According to crime branch officials, this killing was a fallout of the murder of Harkisan Jethwa, Amar Naik's younger brother Ashwin's, father-in-law. Koli's murder was a major setback for the Arun Gawli gang.

Koli started as a small-time goon from Kumbharwada in central Mumbai before he was arrested and detained in the Arthur Road jail in the late 1980s. Soon, he crossed swords with gangster Amar Naik and his brother Ashwin, over collection of protection money from undertrials in jail.

Koli was also one of the key shooters in the murder of Dawood Ibrahim's associate Rajji Mehendi, near Kala Nagar in Bandra, in 1991. Incidentally, Koli was Mehendi's private bodyguard before they parted company.

Tapka Diya

It was 11.30 on September 6, 1983. Police sub-inspector Isaque Bagwan had just escorted dreaded gangster Amirzada Nawab Khan to the Sessions Court

in connection with the murder of Dawood Ibrahim's elder brother, Shabir.

The lawyers were waiting for Sessions Judge S V Joshi to begin proceeding in the case. The bustle had settled down when a 20-year-old virtually unknown youth, managed to slip past the police cordon and entered the court.

Suddenly, the youth swerved 180 degrees and strode back towards the prisoner's enclosure. His swift movements took Amirzada by surprise.

The youth pulled out a .38 caliber revolver tucked under his shirt and opened fire from less than five feet. In a matter of seconds, Amirzada lay dead in a pool of blood with three bullets in his chest, upper neck and abdomen.

The court room turned into commotion as people ran for cover. Co-accused Jaffar Jamal Siddique buried his face in his palm.

"Stop! Don't run. Stop," yelled Ishaq Bagwan, the sub inspector attached to the crime branch.

Bagwan moved swiftly into position and managed to open fire from his .38 caliber Titan Tiger service revolver, to prevent the shooter from escaping. The wounded assassin, overpowered and disarmed, gave his name as David Pardesi, an unemployed youth from Tilak Nagar in Chembur.

Meanwhile, Manohar alias Mangya, the driver of the getaway vehicle, informed the boss, *"Tapka Diya*".

The operation had become a legend instantly changing the underworld equation in Mumbai. Dawood became an underworld genius.

Teen

Teen or three, in underworld lingo means death. It could be the death of a gangster or the demise of a family member.

Tel (Oil)

In the mid-1980s, Dawood would call his associates in Dubai and ask them if they would like to smuggle some *tel* — a euphemism for smuggled gold along with a consignment of his own. Gold and oil have almost the same colour. The unsuspecting men would agree. Dawood would sell most of the gold they handed to him in Dubai and send a fraction of the consignment. His would get his contacts in Customs to seize the gold and claim a 20 per cent reward. He would tell his associates they had been unlucky. Since they would hear about the seizure, they had no option but to trust Dawood.

Than (Rs 1,000)

Than also means Rs 1,000 in the underworld. Senior residents of Dongri and nearby areas still use this word.

Tiger

Ibrahim Mushtaq Memon grew up in the narrow alleys around Kadiya Building in south Mumbai. Born into a family of five brothers, his father Mushtaq wanted him to play cricket and wanted to name him Tiger after Tiger Pataudi.

After dropping out of Standard IX, he became so aggressive that his father nicknamed him Tiger anyway. Tiger got associated with smugglers Mohammed Dossa and Mustafa Dossa alias Majnoon, known to frequent the area in around 1984.

Impressed with his dare-devilry, Tiger was hired as their driver cum-body guard. Once, Dubai based smuggler Yaqub Bhatti was on a business trip to Mumbai and somehow, the police who were tipped off about his presence, got on his trail. Memon won Bhatti's heart by driving him to the airport in the shortest possible time, evading the police dragnet. So impressed was the smuggler that he invited Memon to Dubai and also offered him a five percent

share in the business. Memon accepted the offer and from then on, there was no looking back.

Memon masterminded the landing of RDX, later used in the 1993 serial bomb blasts. He is also believed to have arranged for the training of 25 youth at the behest of the Pakistani ISI operatives, from Dubai. Today, Memon is a successful businessman holed up in Karachi.

Tilak Nagar

The Hub Of Underworld Activities In North Mumbai.

This lower income group enclave was located amidst the smokestack industries in north Mumbai. Most of the residents were employees in the Thane-Belapur industrial belt.

Some of the gangsters from Tilak Nagar were skilled workers in nearby companies before they switched over to the murkier side.

Philips Pandhare was a turner at a nearby automobile factory. His *bete-noir* Rajan Nair too, was employed there as a machinist.

Chhota Rajan's father Sadashiv Nikhalje, was employed in a pharmaceutical firm at Mulund. Almost all the gangsters had an industrial history before the killings started in the late 1970s.

Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan, is considered the godfather of the Tilak Nagar gang. His protege, Chhota Rajan, took over in 1983. There were others like Mohan Kotian, Pradeep Madgoankar alias Bandya Mama, Ramesh Sharma alias Gunga, Ganeshsingh Bisht alias Danny and Farid Tanashah.

Tilak Nagar became the main hideout for members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang when Chhota Rajan was his second-in-command. Rajan continued to get fresh recruits from the colony even after he broke away from Dawood, in 1993.

Tere Marne Se Main Jeu To Tu Mar Ja

If I can live after your death: it is better you die-This is one of the most common phrases used by underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. Perhaps the last few words a traitor hears before he is executed. These words are used when an associate either turns into a foe or becomes a serious problem for him.

Thapa's Killing (Dawood-Rajan Split)

Municipal corporator Khim Bahadur Thapa's killing led to the split between Chhota Rajan and his mentor Dawood Ibrahim.

Chhota Rajan was disturbed after his key associate Naresh Awatu alias Jukkar, was gunned down in an encounter on February 1, 1992.

Awatu along with his elder brother Amar, Diwakar Churi and Sanjay Ruggad formed Rajan's core group.

It was known that the area where Awatu was killed was 'controlled' by Thapa, also a Shiv Sena corporator.

Rajan, who was then second-in-command to Dawood, was told that Thapa had informed the police about Awatu's whereabouts.

Rajan had been worried about Thapa's meteoric rise in the Northern suburbs of Mumbai, which used to be under his control.

Thapa was politically strong. Besides, he had a large following in the suburbs surrounding Bhandup.

The watchman-turned-politician was virtually unchallenged after the death of his key rival Ashok Joshi, from Kanjurmarg. The power equation had shifted after Dawood Ibrahim's key lieutenant Satish Raje was killed by Ashok Joshi of the Arun Gawli gang, one of the many reasons why he hatched a plot to kill Thapa. Rajan soon formed an alliance with Avdhoot Bonde and Vilas Mane — local goons who had crossed swords with Thapa.

Thapa's movements were closely monitored. Rajan associates cornered him near Mangatram petrol pump in Bhandup and killed him on April 23, 2001.

The killing had taken Dawood by surprise. Rajan had not obtained Dawood's sanction before killing Thapa. The impression that had gained ground in underworld circles was that Rajan had become too big for his boots and was also very insecure.

Third Gear

Third gear means to dodge someone or speed off. The word is coined from the third gear in an automobile used to gain momentum.

Toofani (CBI Files Still Open)

Mohammed Shafi Sheikh alias Shafi Toofani, was close to many intelligence agencies and provided vital tip-offs, leading to major drugs seizures, and particularly to the whereabouts of an overseas drug lord. Surprisingly, he was lured out of his hideout and killed in an encounter in broad daylight, near Null Bazar in south Mumbai. While there are unconfirmed reports that an intelligence officer gave away Toofani's whereabouts, others blame it on Sheikh Mohammed Hussein alias Hussein Ustara. The latter was also considered close to intelligence agencies and may have tipped the police of his rival's hideout.

But the drug theory seems the most plausible. Toofani provided the police with some vital information on the drug trafficking networks in Mumbai. Little did Toofani realize that the drug Mafia had informants within the central intelligence agencies such as the Narcotic Control Bureau and the Intelligence Bureau. It did not take long for them to pull off a stunning reprisal by silencing the informant. He was more a mercenary known to have worked for small-time gang lords like Mehmood Kalia and Fazlu. Toofani was also very close to Mohammed Shakeel Sheikh Babu Sheikh alias Chhota Shakeel, when the latter was running Sham's Travel Agency on Temkar

Street, Dongri. The association did not last long, as Shakeel fled the country in 1988,

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was ordered to conduct an inquiry into Toofani's encounter in 1995. The findings are still a mystery.

Topi (The Ace Trickster)

Sayeed Topi, a key associate of Dawood Ibrahim's brother Noora Ibrahim Kaskar. Topi calls a builder to an Andheri restaurant to "settle" payment of protection money. A few minutes into the conversations, Topi receives a call on his mobile phone and jumps up from his seat. *"Bhai, jee, Bhai, jee"* he keeps repeating. Keeping a hand on the mouthpiece, he whispers to the builder. "It's Dawood on the other end." He continues the conversation, *"Bhai, gaijeyse aadmi* hain"(he is a very humble guy). He is my man. Just give him a few hours," he pretends to plead. Topi hangs up and says, "It's very difficult to explain to him. He wants to kill you, but I've asked for some more time, Hurry up." The petrified builder, on his part, is unaware that the *"Bhai"* happens to be one of Topi"s associates, calling from a telephone booth across the road. He succumbs to the threat and parts with a few lakh rupees. In underworld jargon, a cheat is also referred to as a *'Topi'*. In Sayeed's case, this nickname suited him perfectly as he was an ace trickster.

Undir (Taxi)

'*Kaam hone ke bad undir me nikal jd"* (escape from the scene of crime in a taxi).

The word was used by Suresh Manchekar's second-in-command Santosh Naik alias Maharaj, while hatching a plot with frontline shooter Kisan Shinde alias Manager. Undir (rat in Marathi) actually meant taxi.

Details of the plot were followed with clock-work precision. The shooters escaped in a taxi after gunning down builder Mahendra Khanvilkar, in his first floor office at Parel, on March 22, 2002.

Upar Se Phone Aaya Tha

What this actually means is that there was a call from Dawood Ibrahim. This sentence, *upar se phone,* is generally used by Dawood's associates in their strongholds at Dongri and Bori Mohalla, in south Mumbai.

U Turn

A gangster takes a U-turn when he returns to where he belongs or rejoins the gang after a break.

Simon Thomas Manuel alias Sikander alias Shanu did not become a snake-

toting sadist overnight. It took him almost 15 years to graduate from a small-time robber to a shooter of the Chhota Shakeel gang.

Simon was named in more than 34 cases of robberies, extortions and dacoity before he received feelers from mafia don Rajan to join his gang.

However, the arrangement did not work and Simon soon changed allegiance to rival gangster Dawood Ibrahim. Simon was arrested and lodged at the Thane prison in 1994. After his stint in jail, Simon went back to Chhota Shakeel. He became the second-in-command after Chhota Shakeel's key associate Ismail Malbari, was killed in a shootout outside a court at Vikhroli in 1997. He soon began operating under a new alias Sikander, and was involved in no less 15 murders. A special squad attached to the North West Region recovered 13 handguns from him in 1998.

The gangster from Karkala village near Mangalore in Karnataka, crossed swords with Chhota Shakeel yet again when he disappeared with Rs. 25 lakhs and a large cache of arms. He resurfaced and joined hands with Shakeel to take on rival gangster Chhota Rajan. He unleashed terror between Goregoan and Borivili in the western suburbs.

With the crime branch on his trail, Simon was shot dead in an encounter at Borivili, on April 22, 2000 by a squad comprising of Assistant Police Inspector Pradeep Sharma, Arun Borude and Daya Nayak.

Uski Zindagi Kuch Lambi Ho Gayi (His Life Just Got Another Extention)

Encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar was one of the pioneers who had kept landlines and mobile phones linked to Dagdi Chawls under observation, and was listening in on conversations between the gangsters and their associates. His huge handset kept ringing every few minutes, but his face was devoid of any emotions.

Salaskar's men carried out a search within Dagdi Chawls-a tactic used by hunters to track down their quarry, often with the help of hunting dogs.

Salaskar, in civilian clothes, wastes no time, and rushes to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Param Bir Singh's office, "Sir, we saw Sada Pawle alias Mama inside Dagdi Chawls. He managed to escape," Salaskar said.

Singh: *"Uski zindagi kuch lambi ho gayi hain* (his life just got another extention). At least, we managed to flush him out of his den. I don't think it will take much longer to track him down."

Meanwhile, Salaskar's mobile phone rings without respite. One of the lines under observation belongs to Pawle's younger brother Anand, a ticket collector with the Central Railway. He lived in the official quarters near Vidyavihar railway station.

Salaskar gets into action. "It is Pawle. They are planning to leave for Shirdi tomorrow. Let us get ready."

Deputies Avinash Sawant, Hemant Desai, Satish Mayekar, Sachin Kadam and few constables positioned themselves in a taxi and a blue Maruti van along the one kilometer stretch connecting Vidyavihar to main M G Road, in Ghatkopar.

Around 1.30 pm on September 26, 1997, Pawle, top aide Vijay Tandel and four others squeezed into an old Fiat. The informant sounded the alarm as the car lumbered out of the railway colony.

Salaskar stepped down from his Maruti 1000. "Disarmed him and draged him out of the car," he shouted.

But Pawle and Tandel were sitting ducks. The duo were dead, just a few seconds later.

Ustara (Razor)

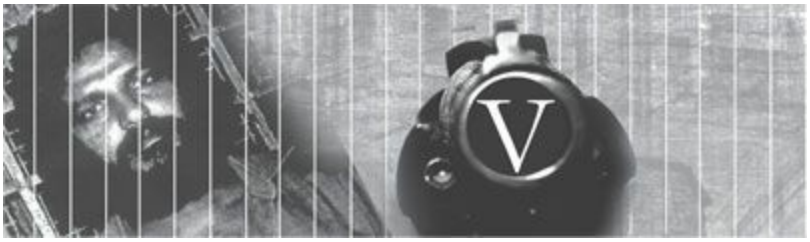
Ustara was among the underworld's favourite weapons in the 1970s. While possession of one does not attract serious punishment, in skilled hands it can kill.

Mohammed Hussein Jaffar Sheikh had acquired the dubious nickname Ustara after he slashed an adversary with a razor from the nape of his neck to the lower hips. The doctor in the government hospital was amazed that his patient was injured in a street fight. He reportedly told the patient that only a surgeon could have made an incision with such precision. Hussein Ustara soon gained recognition among the upper echelons of Mumbai's underworld.

Ustara was the one of the few gangsters in Mumbai who dared to challenge Dawood Ibrahim in his own turf in south Mumbai. He formed a deadly combination with Shafi Toofani and Farook Batatawala, says Joint Commissioner of Police, Rakesh Maria.

Even gangsters like Chhota Rajan and Babloo Shrivastava aligned with him to settle their scores with Dawood Ibrahim. He also became the favourite of some of the central intelligence agencies while operating from his fortified residence at Pydhonie.

Ustara was gunned down near Agripada by Dawood Ibrahim's henchman Mohammed Kanjari, on September 11, 1998.



Vaman Salgaonkar

Vaman Salgaonkar, who operated as a don in the central suburbs of Mumbai, began his career as a robber. Salgaonkar, like his contemporary Suhas Bhatkar alias Potya, later graduated to being a gang leader, but he soon crossed swords with the hoodlum and his neighbour Baba Ghude, both residents of Khed Gulli, in Prabhadevi.

While Salgaonkar and Ghude shared Khed Gulli, Potya was dominating Yadav Patil Wadi.

The gangs were mostly involved in robberies and looting matka dens. Protection money from clubs and illicit liquor *bhattis* were the other sources of income in the early 1980s.

Around that time, gangs headed by Amar Naik, Manya Surve, Tukaram Tandel and Dilip Prabhu had locked horns over sharing hafta in Dadar and Prabhadevi. The number of gangs was rising and territories were shrinking. Expectedly, there were frequent clashes.

Venkatesh Kamath

Venkatesh Kamath, recalls Police Inspector Praful Joshi, came into close association with members of the Amar Naik gang, during his detention in jail. It was here that he made contact with the underworld.

After his release in 1986, he changed allegiance and joined hands with the Suresh Manchekar gang. He has very active in the Thane-Kalyan-Lonavala belt before the Pune police killed him in an encounter, in early 2003.

Earlier, Kamath was arrested for killing his sister-in-law for refusing to give him Rs 200 as pocket money.

Vardarajan Mudaliar

Godfather Vardhabhai had an uncanny knack for dealing with gangsters and the police. He was probably one of the first underworld figures to realize that an empire could not survive without support from policemen and the government.

Vardhabhai was launched into the big league when he entered the docks and created smuggling rings with customs officers, Bombay Port Trust personnel, policemen and insurance agents. Initial investigations indicated that his annual income from smuggling alone was estimated around Rs 40 crore, in 1982.

At least 20 per cent of the police force had hobnobbed with Vardhabhai sometime or the other. More than 50 dreaded gangsters of Mumbai owed allegiance to him in the early 1980s.

Babya Khopde, Rajan Nair alias Bada Rajan, Rama Naik and Babu Reshim were regular visitors to his *darbar* (gathering). He provided legal and financial help to almost all the hardened criminals in the city. He collected over two crore rupees from slumlords in and around Dharavi and Sion-Koliwada. There were other businesses like bars, prostitution rackets and hotels.

Problems started when erstwhile Commissioner of Police J F Rebeiro, posted deputy commissioner of police Y C Pawar, in the high tension Dharavi zone. It took officials almost two years to crack the don's network and raid his firmly entrenched bases in Sion-Koliwada in around 1983.

The police named Vardhabhai as the prime accused in a dacoity case in 1986. He fled to his native town only to return and surrender before authorities on January 5, 1987.

Vardhabhai was let off on bail and he soon regained a firm grip over his network. He also founded the Bombay Tamilar Peravai, a social organization for the welfare of Tamil migrants in Mumbai.

The next showdown with the police was caused by his lavish Ganpati festival celebrations, near Matunga railway station.

Vardhabhai's former associates suspect that the Pathan gangs could have masterminded his downfall. He had expanded his activities in the docks, once their stronghold.

Vardhabhai died in Chennai on January 2, 1990. Underworld activities in Dharavi and Matunga slipped down to lower levels gradually.

Vinod Matkar

Matkar was one of gangster Chhota Rajan's deadly killers. He was named in over 20 murders in Mumbai and Nepal, including that of Nepalese Member of Parliament, Mirza Dilshad Baig.

He began as a small-time robber in Matunga and rose up the gangland ladder to become one of Rajan's most trusted lieutenants. Matkar formed a deadly combination with Balu Dokre and Rohit Verma, while targeting bomb blasts accused in Mumbai.

He was named among the ten most wanted gangsters in Mumbai after killing blast-accused Mohammed Salim Kasim Ali alias Salim Passport, a key Dawood Ibrahim aide.

Matkar was a former student of central Mumbai's, MD College in Parel, not far from where he lived. He was shot dead by Sub-Inspector Daya Nayak and Inspector Pradeep Sharma at Khar, on January 27, 1999. The entire tracking was done by erstwhile Deputy Comissioner of Police, K L Prasad.

Virar Land (Led To The Killing Of Rama Naik)

Dispute over property in Virar led to the death of Rama Naik, the gangster who helped Dawood Ibrahim eliminate his rivals, the Pathan gang.

A builder approached Rama Naik after local gangster Jayendra Thakur alias Bhai Thakur, threatened to take over his land in Virar. Rama asked Thakur to lay off the disputed land.

Thakur approached Dawood Ibrahim's key associate Sharad Shetty to settle the dispute. The latter asked Rama not to interfere in the matter.

Rama did not pay heed to Shetty's warning as he considered himself senior. But Rama was a little disturbed when Dawood asked him to stay out of the Virar land deal. He later rushed to Dubai to persuade Dawood to settle the matter in his favour but met with little success.

Dawood was adamant that the land in Virar should go to Bhai Thakur. Rama abused his former protege before returning to Mumbai. He was killed by Dawood's henchmen at Chembur, a few weeks later.

Vithala Vithala

(Been Sent To His Heavenly Abode-from the popular God Vithala of Maharasthra, whose name is taken when someone expires).

Chhota Rajan's ace shooters Balu Dokre and Baba Bugga Reddy were waiting carelessly at the entrance of the single storeyed nondescript building at Sahar village, near Mumbai's international airport.

It was a sultry afternoon on May 8, 1998. Residents in the lower-middle class enclave were hardly aware that two other shooters had trudged up the flight of stairs and were closing in on their target. Casual about his personal security, clearing agent Raju Pillai was busy browsing through his files.

Rajan's shooters had stalked him and it was seconds before Bunty Pande pulled the .38 caliber Smith & Wesson tucked under his shirt and opened fire from close range.

The noise from the gunshots was muffled by the busy traffic on the road leading to Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport. It took a while before the neighbours were alarmed.

Minutes later, Pande and Vinod Matkar slipped down the stairs and joined Dokre and Reddy. The deadly four walked swiftly towards a waiting Maruti 800 car that slipped onto the busy road.

'*Vithala. Vithala'* (a code word for mission accomplished) whispered Dokre to his mentor Rajan.

It was a clockwork precision hit. Accurate tip-off was followed by hours of reconnaissance before the death squad struck, the hallmark of Mumbai's underworld.

W (Weapon)

'W mat rakh apne pass '(don't keep the W with you) is the message that goes immediately after a shootout or killing.

Walcott Gang

The Walcott gang operated from the slums of Worli, between 1965 and 1968. The members specialized in landings and sometimes even looted their rivals' contraband.

The gang was led by the Jagya-Ragya duo. Keshav Bhosle, a former police constable, was also identified as a key member of the group.

Wazan (Weight)

Wazan also means weapon in underworld lingo. A handgun generally weighs around five kilograms and is considered heavy. The word *wa%an* denotes the heaviness.

White

Heroin is referred to as 'White' in the underworld. Mumbai is used as a safe

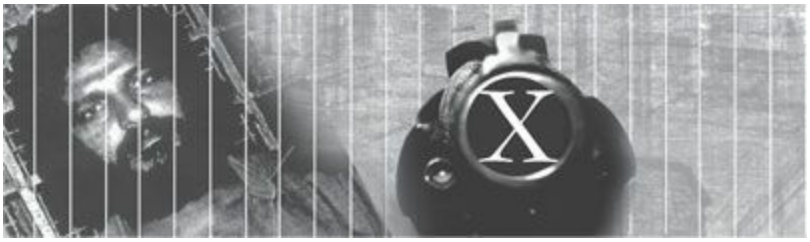
transit point for consignments from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

White-And-White

White and white was the dress code of the 'dada' for more than two decades, until the *bhai* culture took over in mid-1980. Almost every *dada* or gangster wore white shirts and white trousers. Even the *chappals* (slippers) or expensive shoes matched the dress.

Brands had not hit the markets then and clothes were stitched by reputed tailors.

The fashion faded with the era of the *dada*, especially after the new breed of trigger-happy gangsters led by Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Rajan took over the city's crime scene.



Xtras

Extras are the people who assist the main shooter in the killing. They run various errands from keeping watch to escaping with the weapon used in the shootout. An extra could also double up as the driver of the getaway car.

Yeda (Mad Gopal)

Yeda Gopal was perhaps one of the craziest gangsters in Mumbai's underworld.

Gopal had acquired the dubious nickname '*Yeda*' (Mad) for his eccentric behaviour. He never did anything right except for collecting money. After he migrated from his hometown near mangalore, Gopal started working as a waiter in Poornima restaurant near Alankar Cinema in Grant Road, before he joined hands with trader-turned-financer Mahesh Dholakia. Dawood Ibrahim and his elder brother Shabir were regular visitors to Ceasar's Palace on Linking Road near Bandra, which was owned by Dholakia.

The hotelier lobby did not waste time in using Gopal's potential as a gangster. They started offering him contracts to recover money on their behalf from their debtors.

Even before he could make use of the money, a special squad under Inspector Pradeep Suryavanshi shot him at Borivali east, on August 18, 1991.

Yeh Accha Nahin Hua

The Beginning Of The Dawood-Rajan War.

Around 1983, when the Mumbai police turned on the heat on the underworld, policeman Ibrahim Kaskar's son was forced to flee from Mumbai. Chhota Rajan had to follow Dawood after he was named in several serious offences in the city.

Dawood generously gave Rajan a free run in Dubai, entrusting him with the overseeing of Mumbai's underworld operations. It was a move that did not go down well with other members of the D-Company.

Rajan's steady rise up the gangland ladder invited the jealousy and wrath of his associates like Sunil Sawant, Sharad Shetty, Chhota Shakeel and a few of Dawood's family members.

Matters came to a head when Rajan's core team gunned down Shiv Sena corporator Khim Bahadur Thapa at Bhadup, on April 23, 1992. Dawood's brothers Noora and Anis voted against Rajan. The don himself was stunned by his lieutenant's bizzare move. Blood ties won as the don allowed his siblings to interfere with the gang's day-to-day operations.

Some of the gang members even tried to trick Rajan into bad-mouthing Dawood. However, the lieutenant was either too smart or loyal and retorted, *'Dawood mera bhai hain!* (Dawood is my brother). When the move failed, another plot was hatched to bump him off and dump his body in the sea. Under pressure, Rajan fled to Dubai without informing his mentor.

"For three days, Dawood was not aware that his key lieutenant had fled the country. The lights and air-conditioner in his apartment were kept on so as to not arouse suspicion." recalls a former associate.

The ruse may have tricked Dawood temporarily, but its long-term consequences were grave. *"Yeh acha nahin* hua," he is said to have intoned ominously

Incidentally, Rajan's escape coincided with the serial blasts in Mumbai, which gave him a good reason to declare his split from the D-Company.

Soon gang war reached its deadly dimensions both gangs started baying of each other blood in the street of Mumbai.

Young Company (Became 'D Company)

The inter-gang rivalry between the Pathans and Dawood and his 'Young Company' (today known, as D Company) was fierce. Young Company was an association of local youth aspiring to fight social injustice in Dongri and the adjoining areas.

On February 12, 1982, Dawood's elder brother, Shabir was a victim of this rivalry. Dawood then formed an alliance, with a local strongman Bauji Saheb and Rama Naik. Using Naik and his gang members, he began the task of eliminating Pathans in the city. Systematically, one after the other, the Pathans were wiped out.

Yusuf Patel

Born Abdul Majid Abdulla Patel, the Memon Muslim first got involved in smuggling textiles and silver with associate Haji Mastan, in around 1963. All was well till they fell out, following a financial dispute.

In 1977, the Janata government offered amnesty to smugglers. It was not long before Patel jumped on to the bandwagon. While many forgot his dubious past, Patel quietly launched his own construction company and was operating from an old building in Pydhonie, grabbing additional FSI which soon fetched him multi-crore land deals. It took the civic body almost 16 years to discover that Patel had tampered with land records and illegally used FSI in some buildings in south Mumbai.

In the next three years, Patel was found to be involved in around 50 other cases relating to gross manipulation of land records, mostly in connivance

with BMC officials.

Yogesh Paradkar (Pardya)

Pardya's initiation to crime was essentially to keep close watch on Najni Shah, a slumlord from Kanjur Marg, a suburb in north Mumbai.

Pardya, along with associate Dilip Bhuwa, murdered Shah in the marketplace at the behest of their mentor, Ashok Joshi.

Nanji Shah's younger brother Hansraj ,was next to follow. Pardya then teamed up Pandurang Madvi and they were often referred to as Pardya-Pandya. The duo later gunned down Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh More at Andheri, in 1994.

Pardya later defected to the Chhota Rajan gang. He was killed in an encounter by police inspector Prakash George on March 2, 2000.

Yusuf Bachkana

Yusuf Bachkana alias Yusuf Suleman Kadri, is a member of the Chhota Rajan gang. He took to chain snatching under the tutelage of his erstwhile guru Raju Bachkana, around the red-light district of Falkland Road, where he lived in the mid-1980s.

It was from his master that he acquired the nickname 'Bachkana'. He was also known as Narendra Kumar Sharma among his inner circle.

During his stint in jail he met Haji Muktar. Muktar introduced Yusuf to Parvez Siddique, who in turn introduced him to Chhota Rajan's key associate Rohit Verma.

From then on, it was big league crime for Yusuf, starting with firing at Lala, the owner of Mehdi Bar, at Kandivali. This was followed with a string of killings including those of Mohan Kotian and Manish Lala, Dawood's

financer.

Zero/Zero Dial

Zero dial often refers to an informer in Dawood Ibrahim's stronghold, Dongri ,in south Mumbai and the adjoining areas. It actually means keep away or the informer or *'khabr*i' will tip-off the police.

Ziauddin Bhukari Murder

The impression that had gained ground in underworld circles was that Member of Legislative Assembly, Ziauddin Bhukari was close to Dawood Ibrahim. He was shot dead by Vijay Narsale, a member of the Byculla Company, in 1993.

Zingada (Little Master)

The six man death squad that attacked Chhota Rajan at Bangkok was led by Sayed Muddasir Hussain. While Rajan survived the attack, his key lieutenant Rohit Verma was shot dead. Diminutive Hussain alias Munna Zingada's (*Zingada* in underworld means Prawn) initiation into crime took place in 1990, when he stabbed a fellow student to death over an eve-teasing incident outside Ismail Yusuf College outside Jogeshwari (E).

Hussain's ruthless nature soon caught the eye of Ismail Malbari, a close associate of mafia boss Chhota Shakeel. Even in college, Hussain wanted to be a *Bhai* and was often seen with a chopper. A resident of Jogeshwari east, Zingada finally graduated to the rank of shooter when he was assigned the task of killing Prakash Naik alias Gotya, at Shakeel's behest near Bandra.

Malbari's instinct was right. In under a year, the 'Little Master' had proved his worth by notching up seven killings. "His size belied his prowess," say underworld sources.

Zingada's first big hit came by on October 4, 1997, when he shot dead Jitendra Dhabolkar, general secretary of gangster Arun Gawli's Akhil Bhartiya Sena. Six others followed the same year. Zingada's killing streak finally skid to a halt when he was apprehended with a mini arsenal in his possession at Santacruz, in 1997. On September 16, 2000, Zingada and his men attacked Chhota Rajan and Rohit Verma in their apartments at Bangkok, Thailand.

Zingada continues to remain one of D-Company's key contract killers.

To quote an old cliché, Mumbai spawns a dream a minute. On the surface and off it. In the twisted lanes and mohallas of Pydhonie and Dongri, those dreams have a language and character of their own. Dark, ruthless and wildly exciting.

As a journalist on the crime beat, the author has spent long hours talking to those in uniform, those in the underworld and those in the grey zone – people who work as police informers.

Much of what he has seen, heard and observed in over a decade of covering crime has found its way into print. But there's a lot that's spoken of in hushed tones, or buried in underworld lore.

The underworld speaks its own language, and words are invented on the spur of the moment. A shooter is referred to as an "artist", an informer is simply "zero dial", Dubai is "Delhi", while arrest is "get admitted". Most of these are aimed at sending the police or adversaries on a wild goose chase. It's a world that thrives on the spirit of enterprise, actively courts power and danger, and has conquered fear. The rules are straight and the ethics sacrosanct.

The principles of 'dhanda' apply equally here – risk, profit and competition are at the very core. An informer will think nothing of selling precious information on a rival if it can earn him extra bucks or goodwill from the police.

In these pages, the author shares some of the stories that take you through this universe – vibrant, dynamic and, yes, dangerous.

About the Author

J. Dey is a Mumbai-based journalist with over a decade's experience in crime reporting and investigation. He has worked with *The Indian Express, Channel 7, Hindustan Times* and is currently Editor–Investigations with *MiD-DAY*.

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